

MARCH 2015

8 COMMON BATHROOM MYTHS DEBUNKED ON P. 81

real living

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AN ORDINARY
BEDROOM
INTO A HOTEL
ROOM
SEE P. 24

18 OFFBEAT WALL FINISHES
YOU CAN CREATE ON
A WEEKEND



OUR REAL MAKEOVER WINNER

"Ang bahay namin
parang
stock room. Help!"

SEE THE
TRANSFORMATION
ON P. 88

SEE THE
MANILA
DESIGN WEEK
SCHEDULE
ON P. 11

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EDITOR'S NOTE



BLAST FROM THE PAST

I'd like to go Freudian and say that memories influence how we decorate. I think it is because our earliest memories are of the home. My own childhood memory was of scribbling on our living room wall, much to my mother's consternation.

Childhood memories make such indelible impressions that they often trickle down to our current spaces. They

do not necessarily translate into musty old houses; rather, they successfully blend past and present in ancestral homes, and add a touch of personality to new ones.

We feature such homes in this issue. Like the post-war home of Josh Formentera, which is filled with beautiful heirloom furniture, but is updated with vibrant colors. Or the diminutive abode of Grace Moslares, which is brimming with refurbished furniture from her father's home. Even Steph Tan brought in pieces from her grandparents' house to add a bit of nostalgia to her condo.

And speaking of memories, I still remember the day my late father (an architect) brought me to a small building materials fair at EDSA Shangri-La in the 1990s. It was one of the first Worldbex fairs, and I am amazed at how much it has grown. Now, Worldbex celebrates its 20th year as the biggest construction fair in the country. So drop by Worldbex (and Manila FAME) this Design Week, March 11 to 15.

So look back to your past, and apply it to your future. And if a good experience happens your way, never forget it.

Rachelle



Photog Kurt Alvarez, Tala Singson, and Dagny Madamba make the most of The Henry Manila's lovely post-war details for the Décor Ideas shoot. See the rest of it on p. 24.

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"80% done!" #instalivingph

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YOU'LL LOUNGE ALL DAY LONG WITH OUR BED-AND-BATH SPECIAL. WE'VE GOT EVERYTHING HERE—FROM CREATING THE PERFECT BEDROOM TO ACCESSORIZING YOUR LOO.

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THIS MONTH'S COVER
Steph Tan's Condo

PHOTOGRAPHY
Paolo Feliciano

PICTORIAL DIRECTION &
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Dagny Madamba &
Tala Singson

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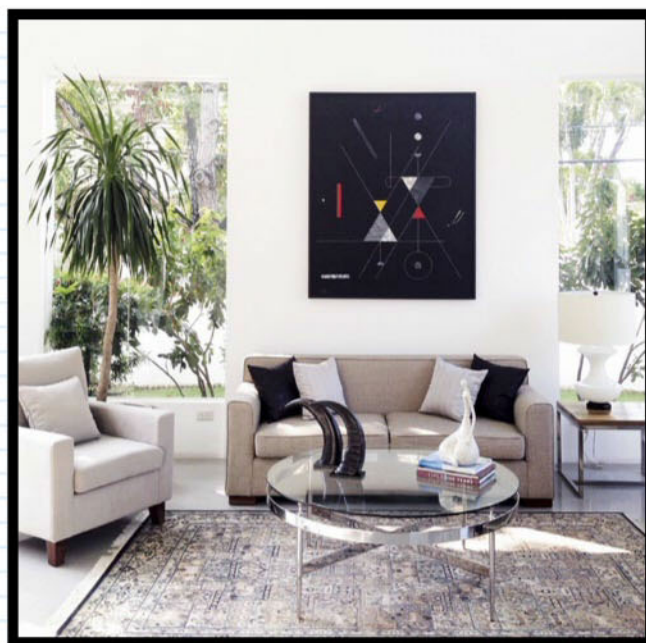


6 WAYS TO TAKE GREAT INSTAGRAM PHOTOS OF YOUR HOME FROM TWO PRO PHOTOGRAPHERS, JELITO DE LEON AND MIGUEL NACIANCENO



COMPOSE IT. Says Jelito de Leon, "When composing your shot, always keep in mind that you don't always have to include everything in the room. You can choose to focus on details. Taking photos of small details is also nice. Styling is a bit tricky, but making it look as natural as possible is the key."

@jelitodeleon



CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME OF DAY. Regular RL photographer Miguel Nacianceno reiterates that the best type of lighting for interior photography is natural light. "Images taken in artificial lighting tend to look unnatural, with yellow, blue, or green tints just dominating the color profile." Jelito adds: "I take my photos between 7AM to 9AM or 3PM to 5PM...the light during those times is the softest and gives me the best shadows."

@mignac_



CHOOSE THE BEST ANGLE. "Most shots of spaces are best photographed the way the eye sees it," Miguel says. "Generally, that's a straight-on, 90-degree angle. There are exceptions, though. For example, tabletop items or floor details are obviously best shot at a higher angle. Balconies and landings might make for interesting POVs (point of view)."

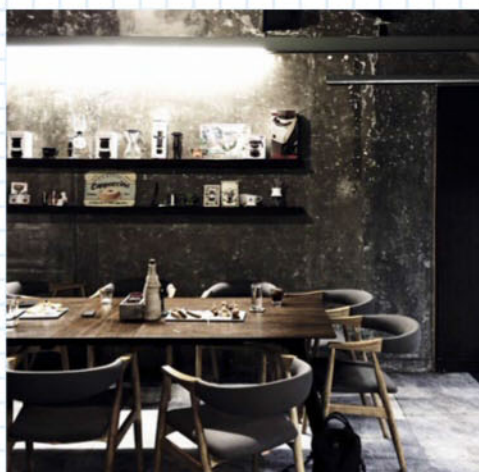
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PICK AN APPROPRIATE FILTER. Miguel cautions against using colored filters too much. "Filters can make ordinary looking photographs more interesting, but personally, I feel that overly tinted images are a bit tiring. The subject is still what matters most. VSCO is a good app with filters that can enhance your photos without making them look unnatural."

@mignac_

*TO KNOW WHAT THE BEST PHOTO APPS ARE, check out www.realliving.com.ph



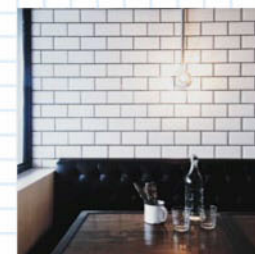
KEEP IT STEADY. According to Jelito: "Know how to hold your phone correctly. Some people like me have shaky hands, so I have to find a comfortable position where I can hold my phone properly without feeling uncomfortable."

@jelitodeleon

LIGHT IT WELL, OR POSITION SUBJECT NEAR NATURAL LIGHT.

"The more light the better," says Miguel. "If you're shooting spaces, homes, or details, make sure your subject is well lit. Camera apps such as Snapseed or Manual can give you much more control over your phone's camera."

@mignac_



INSTAPIRATION at Your Fingertips! Follow @reallivingph and share your home design inspirations by using our special hashtag #instalivingph. Be creative with your photo, create a memorable caption (may be edited for brevity), and your inspired image could be featured in a future issue of *Real Living*!

What's not to LOVE?



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detail



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texture

Trend
Limited Edition
Basins



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drama



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ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Design expert ISSA VILLAR gives tips on renovation, ventilation, and organizing

FOR GIRLS ONLY

Q I'm a public school teacher, and my dream is for my two girls, aged 6 and 8, to sleep in their own room. I've read about a makeover of a shared bedroom in one of your issues. The renovation costs almost P80,000, but I don't have that money. How can I renovate my girls' bedroom on a minimal budget? —*Jing Vergara, via Facebook*

A Creating the perfect bedroom for your two girls doesn't have to be expensive. First, start with paint—a fresh coat is the quickest way to make anything look fresh. Ask your girls to help pick a color so that they're also involved in the renovation. Then, look around your home to see what can be salvaged before buying anything new. If these pieces need a little updating, you can reupholster or give them a new coat of paint as well. And lastly, get creative. Accessorize their room with things that are personal to them. You can even make your own pillows and window treatments, or add fun thrift shop or craft trimmings.



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NO AIR

Q Most houses now are row houses, which leave you with only the front façade's windows for ventilation. It seems we do not have any other choice but to load the house with electric fans or ACs. Can you give suggestions on how you can improve ventilation without having to resort to using air conditioners? —*Rachiel Alarcon via Facebook*

A The key to proper ventilation, where it's limited, is to get air to circulate. Ceiling fans are great for circulating air around your space and can be installed wherever a ceiling light is positioned. But if you prefer to use stand fans instead, all you need to do is to position them in a way that they will draw cool air in from the outside and hot air out. Place a fan (preferably a low one) near an open window or door facing the room, then place another fan (preferably a taller one) facing the window to draw the hot air out. You can also install exhaust fans in rooms that tend to get very hot, like kitchens, to expel hot air.



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LETTER OF THE MONTH VINTAGE LOVER

I have been a subscriber of your magazine for a long time. I want to share some pictures from my house. All the pieces you see are special for me. It has been a part of my childhood, and they belong to my aunts and grandparents. Thanks to your magazine, I got so interested in making our house look good using old stuff from my family. —*Jojo Pantoja-Jurado*



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THE LIFESTYLE REWARDS PROGRAM

time to get going!





March's Pick

DAPHNE FOR NATIONAL BOOKSTORE

Popular TV host and blogger Daphne Oseña-Paez recently launched a limited edition line of organizers and stationery items with National Bookstore. Working with graphic designer Isabel Gatuslao, Daphne created a collection with delicate, romantic, but contemporary patterns inspired by her father and her daughters Sophia Rose, Lily Paloma, and Stella Margarita. The DAPHNE collection is available at selected National Bookstore outlets and at NBS Glorietta 1. Share your DAPHNE finds with us by using the hashtag #DaphneandNBS and #instalivingph.



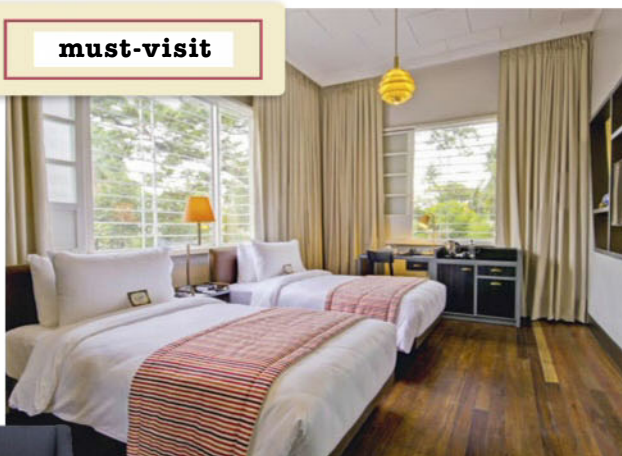
Light 'em up! MiPow recently launched its Playbulb Series, an ingenious mix of sound and visuals that will change the way you lounge (or party) at home. The Playbulb Color (P3,999) synchronizes with your smart phone via Bluetooth so it can serve as a wireless speaker that also emits colored lights. You can easily manipulate the color and "behavior" of the lights depending on your preference—soft pulse, steady, or even in sync with music! The Playbulb Candle (P999) can set the mood for a romantic dinner with its warm light. It can also change colors, making it perfect for kids at bedtime. MiPow products are available at PowerMac Centers, Rustan's, Abenson, MemoExpress, and SM Appliance Centers. —SSF



**2015
COLOR TRENDS
BY BOYSEN**

Together with Global Color Research and leading architects and designers, Boysen created these trendy palettes for different personalities. The Naturist palette is a mix of subdued but deep earth colors that bring the outdoors in. Meanwhile, the Kinetic palette bursts with energy with its vibrant hues. The Avant Garde palette is bold and edgy for those who like to stand out. And lastly, the Perfectionist palette (above) exudes sophistication with its soft but classy colors. All colors are available for Boysen's exterior and interior paints and for the elegant Virtuoso line. Visit www.boysen.com.ph. —KL

must-visit



THE HENRY MANILA Tucked within design and art compound 2680 F.B. Harrison is this gem of a boutique hotel. Beautiful Liberation-era residences are repurposed by designer Eric Paras into an intimate, 34-room haven that merges nostalgic Art Deco elements, mid-century furniture, and modern amenities. Dine at the charming restaurant Apartment 1b at the ground floor of the main house, and explore the rest of this Pasay compound, such as Avellana Art Gallery, Jojie Lloren's atelier, and a11 furniture showrooms. For more info, go to URL www.thehenryhotel.com.



SUMMER TIME! CRATE & BARREL's summer collection features various home accessories in bright colors and patterns that are in tune with the season. Feel like you're in the beach with fish pillows and shell décor, or bring the sunshine in with yellow vases. This collection also offers an outdoor line made up of waterproof and UV- and fade-resistant pieces for your patio or garden. Visit Crate & Barrel at 4/L Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. —KL



editor KATHERINE LOPEZ



REPUBLIC OF FRITZ HANSEN

Dimensione has just brought in pieces from this Danish furniture design company that prides itself with well-crafted products created by iconic Scandinavian designers. Check out the clean lines of sofas, tables, and chairs by Danish designer Poul Kjaerholm and the Analog™ Table by designer Jaime Hayon, among others. Don't miss Arne Jacobsen's classic Egg™ Chair and Drop™ Chair, with its beautiful silhouette and comfy seat. The Republic of Fritz Hansen™ collection is available at Dimensione, G/L One Parkade, 28th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. For more information, visit www.fritzhanzen.com. —KL

must-see

OBRA MAESTRA at WORLDBEX

Visit the fifth Obra Maestra, an inter collegiate design competition, held in collaboration with CIDE and Worldbex, the country's biggest construction show. Interior design students from University of Sto. Tomas, University of the Philippines, PSID, De La Salle Benilde CSA, PUP, and other colleges will be exhibiting designs with the theme "Asean Integration 2015." Wilcon Depot sponsors the materials and fixtures. Go to Worldbex, March 11 to 15, 2015, World Trade Center Pasay City, or visit www.worldbex.com.



MANILA FAME 2015

This year's Manila FAME kicks off by showing artisanal and design forward pieces that were crafted for the 21st century consumer. Source various handmade pieces, as well as holiday décor and fashion apparel that scream Filipino pride. Manila FAME runs from March 13 to 16 at the SMX Convention Center, Pasay City. For more information, visit www.manilafame.com. —KL



MAISON ET OBJET ASIA

This second annual trade event is an interior design and lifestyle summit with exceptional internationally renowned speakers and over 3,500 participants, and it attracts nearly 14,000 local and foreign visitors. Maison Et Objet will be held at the prestigious Marina Bay & Sands Expo in Singapore and Convention Center from March 10 to 13. For more info, visit www.maison-objet.com/en/asia.



SLEEP WELL There's always rest for the weary when luxurious beddings await you every night. Canadian Bed Linens 2015 collection boasts various styles—from playful prints to subtle patterns—that fit any personality. The brand also offers sateen sheets and combed cotton sheets that are smooth to the touch for a truly relaxing sleep. Available at SM Home at all SM Malls. —KL

sneak reads



PRETTY PASTEL STYLE BY SELINA LAKE

How can we tell if a space looks too saccharine? This book shows how to work with pastel colors in your home.

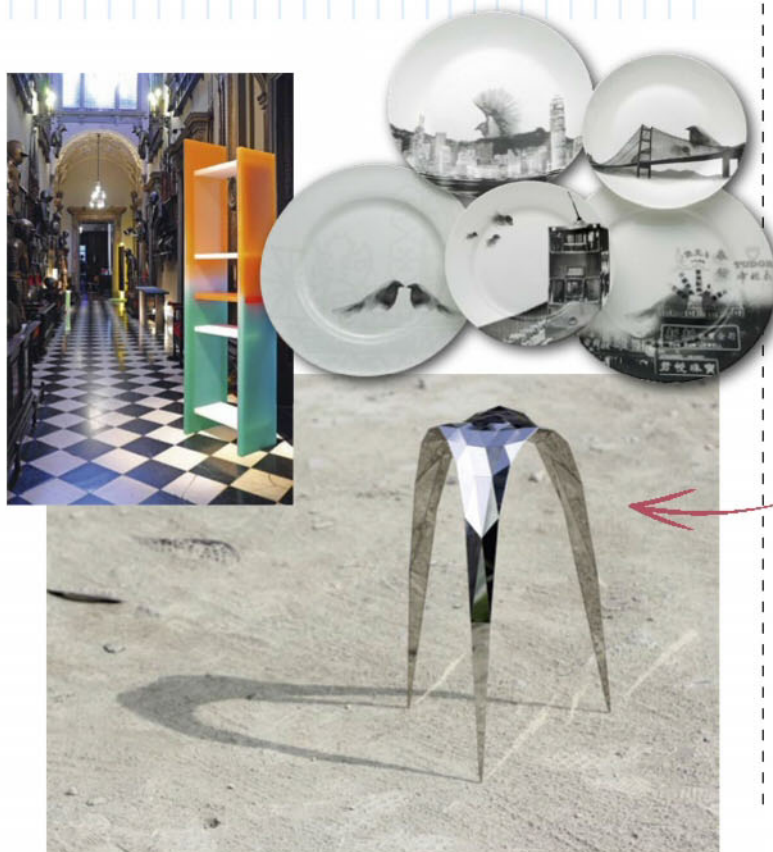
One way is to pair these sweet hues with vintage items to create an unusual but hip combination. Read more tips and get tons of inspiration, as the book is with lovely detail shots. Available at Powerbooks.



IDEAS: BATHROOMS BY AM EDITORES

This book will have you going gaga over innovative looks, gorgeous color palettes, and unexpected combinations

for the bathroom. And with photos of bathrooms with clean lines, sophisticated style, plus invaluable tips, this book shows that you can indulge in luxury in the most private space of your home. Available at Fully Booked. —PDG





IT'S ORGANIC!

Channel your inner earth goddess with these all-natural, APOTHECARY-INSPIRED bathroom picks

1. BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET. A welcome addition to a powder room minus the wilting part. Hydrangeas, P250, AC+632, Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City

2. HAND-HELD. More than just nice typography and packaging, you get an all-organic experience with this liquid soap. Marius Fabre Liquid Soap, P990, AC+ 632, Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City

3. SPRINKLE ME SILLY. Indulge in luxury with this jar of salty goodness. Bath Salt, price available upon request, Bodyfood All-natural, 0917-882-1223

4. NATIVE BEAUTY. Made of capiz, this soap dish adds an elegant, native flair to your bathroom. Soap Dish, P349.75, Kultura Filipino, www.kulturafilipino.com

5. MRS. JONES. This is the perfect birthday gift for your nail polish-savvy friend. Gemima Jones Hand Cream, P530, AC+632

6. HAIR STORY. With ingredients like pili nut oil and patchouli, you get some truly organic pampering. Gemima Jones Shampoo, P750, AC+632

7. RUB IT IN. With its soothing ingredients made from homegrown

ylang-ylang, this oil is the perfect companion for a much-needed massage. Gemima Jones Massage Oil, P780, AC+632

8. TAKE A WHIFF. Here's a lovely, fresh scent in an equally pretty vial. Scent Diffuser, price available upon request, Bodyfood All-natural

9. NATURAL GLOW. Keep your skin dewy and moisturized with this vial. Face Oil, price available upon request, Bodyfood All-natural

10. OIL-GANIC. Let your hair stay shiny and smooth with this multi-tasking elixir. Hair Oil, price available upon request, Bodyfood All-natural

11. GARDEN FRESH. Corral your various accoutrements here for an organized countertop. Tray, P2,480, AC+632

12. LUSCIOUS LUXE. This delicious soap made of natural ingredients make bath time more relaxing. Citrus Oatmeal Soap, price available upon request, Bodyfood All-natural

13. GOODBYE, BUGS! The citronella scent will ward off mosquitoes while keeping your bathroom smelling fresh and clean. Citronella Spray, P250, Zen Zest, Robinsons Galleria

*See more bathroom finds at www.realliving.com.ph

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WINDOW CURTAINS



FAWZI DISPLAY CABINET



CORTINA STRIPED
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SNOOZE FEST

GET COZY WITH THIS MONTH'S SOOTHING
BUT STYLISH BEDROOM PICKS

words & picks DAGNY MADAMBA, TALA SINGSON & PAULA DE GUZMAN main photo shot at a11 photography KURT ALVAREZ

SOFT BLUES. Throw Pillows, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel



SOUVENIR BY THE BEACH. Seashell Table Décor, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel



AQUA SLUMBER. Annabelle Queen-size Bed, P67,200, Home Matters



{Nautical dream}



CHEST IN. Abram Chest of Drawers, P44,500, Home Matters

HANG TIGHT. Söder Pendant Light, P9,995, Möbler



HATS OFF. Portis Hat and Coat Rack, P2,800, Möbler



FLUFFY FUN. White Throw, P3,319, Crate & Barrel



MOROCCAN FLAIR. Blue Vase, P999.75, Our Home



FEMININE CURVES. Juan Accent Chair, P27,350, Home Matters



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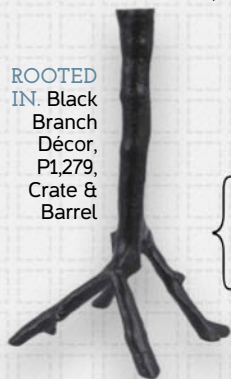
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Light, P6,110, Dimensione



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Pyramid Chita, P1,900, KISH



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NATURAL FINISH. Tarva Chest of Drawers, P9,800, Möbler



PLAIN JAMES. Granat Pillows, P500 each, Möbler



INTO THE SUBURBS. Wood Houses, P679 (large), P639 (medium), Crate & Barrel



SLEEP ALL DAY. Tate Queen-size Bed, P78,690, Crate & Barrel



WHY NOT? Not Floor Lamp, P1,950, Möbler

{Subtle slumber}



EVERGREEN. Fejka Artificial Potted Plant, P399, Möbler

WAFFLE TIME. Hol Side Table, P2,500, Möbler



COOL LINEN. Lino Dark Blue Queen-size Flat Sheet, P5,339, King-size Pillow Covers, P8,985 pair, Crate & Barrel

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TIP THE BEST THING ABOUT THIS POPULAR "VANILLA" LOOK? YOU CAN EASILY TRANSITION IT TO BOLDER STYLES BY ADDING A FEW TOUCHES OF COLOR OR BOLD ACCESSORIES.



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Tet & Maggie

THIS QUIRKY,
HOMEGROWN
BRAND CHAMPIONS
EVERYTHING
HAPPY, REAL, AND
SPONTANEOUS

photography MICHAEL CHUA
pictorial direction TALA SINGSON
words SUNSHINE SELGA FUNA

The pieces are casually arranged in owner Tet Aligaen's home, giving you an idea on how the items look like when mixed with each other. Three-seater sofa, P28,000; "A Chair is Still a Chair" Chair, P20,000; Molave Coffee Table (made out of an old window panel), P35,000



RL's
PICK
A CHAIR IS STILL
A CHAIR,
P20,000



RL's
PICK
PURPLE SIDE
TABLE,
P8,500



* FACT BOX

TET AND MAGGIE

Tel. (02) 754-4125
Mobile 0917-587-6357 (Tet); 0917-792-9020 (Maggie)
Instagram: @tetandmaggie

PRICE POINTS: Small items, like the dolls handmade by Anino ni Ina, start at P650 (a percentage of sales goes to the survivors

of Typhoon Yolanda); pillows are at P650, while chairs range from P5,500 to P20,000, depending on the wood

ONCE THERE WAS AN OTTOMAN: Tet was very much keen on finding the perfect ottoman, but the ones they saw were too pricey for their taste. "Utang na loob, dalawang taon na 'yan, gawa ka na!" Magel

prodded her friend. So the two found the perfect ottoman by creating their own, and the rest, as they say, is history.

ON COLLABORATIONS: "We have that idea, kasi one way or another, you encourage people. Kasi we were also encouraged by some people," says Magel about future plans for their brand.

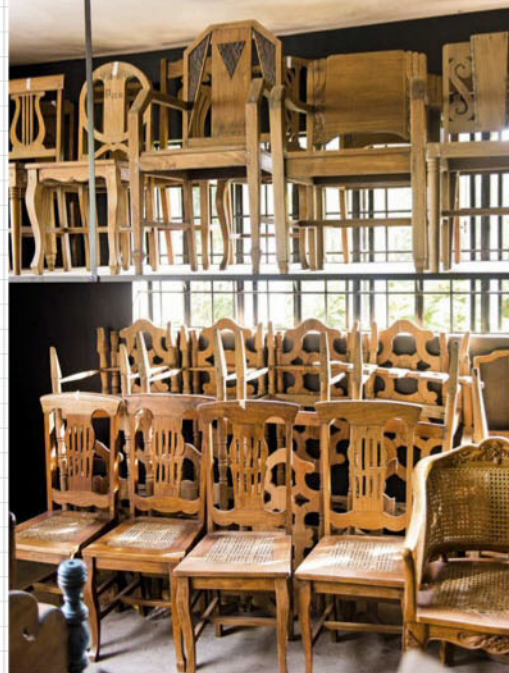


Another old window jamb was turned into a dining table. Here, it sits idly with wooden chairs in various hues. Bleached Table with Moveable Legs, P37,000; Double-deck Entertainment Narra Desk, P12,500; Love Seat, P15,000; Dining Chairs, P5,500 each



RL's PICK
ANINO NI INA DOLL, P650 TO P1,200

RL's PICK
A CHAIR IS STILL A CHAIR, P20,000



The growing business slowly turned Tet's home into a showroom, which at first was disconcerting to her kids. Eventually, they came to appreciate the pieces—even asking if they could have this or that. Even the garage became the brand's workshop, where antiques and other wooden items are stored, each waiting for its rebirth.

TET & MAGGIE'S SHOWROOM is housed in a quiet, sleepy village in Antipolo, but the place itself is far from humdrum. Refurbished antique chairs sporting new, colorful upholstery (one is in green and pink!) immediately tells you that this is no ordinary furniture brand.

As owners Tet Ureta-Aligaen and Magel Cadapan put it, their shop was born out of years of friendship and their shared love for color. “Parang di kami makatiis na walang kulay. Nagiging stale yung mga decisions namin,” says Magel. “Lahat ng dumaan sa harapan namin, nakikita namin yung combination of colors. Tapos gusto ko talagang maglaro sa fabric,” adds Tet, a watercolor artist.

Magel, who grew up surrounded by antiques (her family is an antique dealer) found it natural to work with old furnishings. Together with their team of five workers, Tet and Magel create new and lively pieces out of old, seemingly forlorn furniture. Ambassador chairs, for instance, are reborn in teal

and complemented with brightly printed fabric. An old window jamb was treated to bring out its natural color and texture, and was then transformed into a fascinating tabletop.

The design process is pretty simple: Magel, being the more bohemian of the two, conceptualizes the designs freely, while Tet openly objects if the color or pattern combination is too contrasting. “Siya, magaling siya sa color combination. Lagi niya ako sinasaway. Siya yung kalmado,” says Magel of Tet, whose impeccable artworks serve as a punctuation mark to the frenzy of colorful furniture pieces. To this, Tet replies, “Wala siyang takot mag-kombinasyon... Pero ngayon, may compromise na kami, unlike dati.”

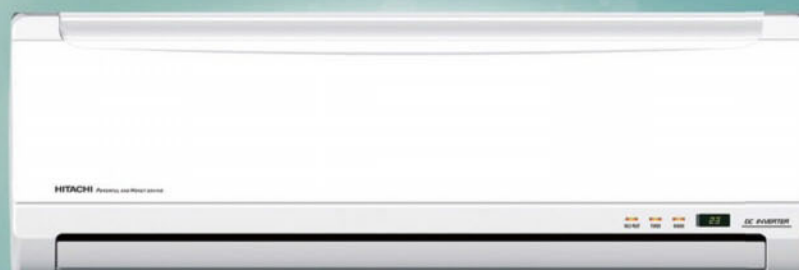
While Tet & Maggie is a very young brand, the women behind it are not in a rush to grow their business. And why would they be, when every piece they offer is lovingly made with new paint and new fabric, and thoughtfully woven with a whole new story that's worth the time it takes to create it.

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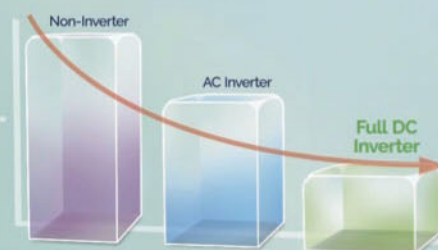


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GET *inspired*

DÉCOR IDEAS

ORGANIZE IT

LET'S RE-DO IT

Redecorating your bath and bedroom? Veer away from the usual white sheets and cluttered nightstand, and try a moody but cozy look for your sleeping haven. Also, score tips on how to prep a guest bathroom or powder room, and check out some striking and unique wall finishes you might want to try next.



TRANSFORM YOUR
BEDROOM FROM
HO-HUM TO OH
WOW! HERE'S
HOW TO MAKE
IT SO INVITING
YOU'LL WANT TO
HEAD STRAIGHT TO
IT AT THE END OF
YOUR DAY.

ROOM FOR STYLE



photography **KURT ALVAREZ**
words & styling **ISSA VILLAR-CHING**
additional styling **DAGNY MADAMBA**
production **TALA SINGSON**

SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE HENRY HOTEL MANILA



WHAT TO STYLE

THE BED

Ever wonder why those beds in showrooms and hotels look so cozy? That's because they were styled to make you want to jump right in, and you can actually replicate the look in your own home. It's easy! The key is layering.

HOW-TO: Instead of just covering your bed with a comforter, try this instead: Fold the comforter down until all pillows are exposed, and then place a folded blanket across the bottom half of the bed and add a throw on top of it. Next, arrange your pillows by leaning them against each other or laying them flat and stacked by twos. Finish up with one or two throw pillows to match your beddings.

TIP A headboard may seem like a luxury, but it really helps in making your bed more comfortable and look put-together. If you live in a small space, have your headboard customized and keep it low so it wouldn't be overwhelming.

Abel Bed Cover, P5,999.75; Orange Throw Pillow, P750; all from Kultura Filipino • Woven Blanket, P2,990; Gray Throw Pillow, P349; both from H&M Home



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WHAT TO STYLE

THE NIGHT STAND

The bedside or night table has a tendency to become a cluttered catchall. Even though it's a convenient spot to have everything within reach, it isn't a good idea to have such a mess so close to your place of sleep. Surround yourself instead with things that are relaxing for a truly satisfying snooze.

HOW-TO: Clear the table of everything and start with a clean slate. Choose what's important to have next to you when you go to bed—this could be a book you're currently reading, an alarm clock, or a carafe of water. Dress up the table with just a few touches—a small vase with either a single bud or some green leaves, a scented candle or room diffuser, a dish for your earrings, and a framed photo of your loved one.

TIP A proper bedside lamp is a must, whether you read an actual pocket book or Kindle. Choose a table lamp with a shade and preferably with an adjustable neck. Use a low-watt bulb, or get a lamp that you can dim.

Capiz Frame, P899.75, Kultura Filipino • Scented Candle, price available upon request, all • Distressed Vase, P299; Floral Print Coaster, P349 per set of four, all from H&M Home

2

FOR MORE BEDROOM DÉCOR TIPS, CHECK OUT THE RL WEBSITE WWW.REALLIVING.COM.PH



3

WHAT TO STYLE

THE READING NOOK

When it's too early to sleep and you need to help your body wind down, why not try reading? It's a great way to slow down and relax, to catch up on a story you've been following, and to get a little bit of peace and quiet.

HOW-TO: Designate a small area in your room as your reading nook. Rid it of any distractions like gadgets, children's toys, and work. Pick an armchair, chaise lounge, or daybed (if you have the space) for you to read on, then add a throw or a blanket and a couple of pillows to make it comfortable. Place a lamp next to it for ample lighting, and a small table to hold your evening tea. Lastly, stack all the books you want to read on the floor and on the table, or keep them in a basket or on a bookshelf.

TIP If you want to set the mood for really comfortable reading, have some ambient music softly playing in the background via a wireless speaker or a dock.

Armchair, find similar at a11; Side Table; Floor Lamp; prices available upon request, both from a11 • Throw Pillow, P599; Blanket, P2,990, both from H&M Home

4

WHAT TO STYLE

THE VANITY

Beauty products, makeup, and hordes of jewelry—a girl can only have so many before these things start taking over the whole vanity. Good thing you can still have everything while keeping your dresser organized.

HOW-TO: All you need to get your personal space under control is a little bit of organization. Get a variety of assorted, decorative containers so that everything has a place. Use small dishes for rings, transfer lotions to a pump bottle, and keep cotton balls and buds in glass containers. Arrange your favorite perfumes on a beautiful tray. Hang earrings off the side of a deep dish. Keep necklaces untangled with jewelry stands. And don't forget to add a beautiful stool or tiny slipper chair.

TIP Vanities aren't just for women—men should have a small space to help them get ready, too. Whether you're willing to share your vanity with your partner or you'd rather give him his own spot, make sure he has the essentials: a mirror, trays to hold his cologne, containers for his watches and rings, and a catchall for loose change. Get these organizers in masculine materials like leather, woven fibers, metal, or shagreen.

Handpainted Tray with Flowers, P3,680, AC+632 • Jewelry Box, P899.75; Kultura Filipino • Picture Frames, P629; Jewelry Tree, P1,795; Glass Bottle, P499; Bowl with Stand, P499; Green Plate, P599, all from H&M Home





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SIX UNEXPECTED WALL FINISHES FOR YOU,
PLUS DECORATIVE PIECES TO MATCH.

WALL TO WALL

Hektar Drop Light,
P2,600, Möbler •
Gold Crown Table
Décor, P1,095,
Dimensione •
Houndstooth Scarf,
P1,290; Stardust
Bench, P35,000;
Pisces Side Table,
P10,800, all from
Space Encounters

photography **KURT ALVAREZ/ACME INNOVATIVES**
words, styling, & production **DAGNY MADAMBA**
styling assistant **TALA SINGSON**

1

EXPOSED CONCRETE

Concrete walls are all the rage recently because of the growing popularity of industrial design. The treatment is also a conscious attempt to veer away from last year's red brick walls. This edgy, raw finish goes well with clean lines seen in contemporary or Scandinavian pieces. Because of the gray hue and textured surface, bare concrete creates a rather moody atmosphere. You may want to use colors and soft furnishings to cheer and cozy up the space.

STYLE OPTION: Exposed concrete doesn't always have to look gritty. Create a more relaxed atmosphere by complementing a concrete wall with natural finishes: light wood stains and simple white pieces for both furniture and décor. Soften the look further with texture—for instance, use sisal rug or pepper the room with plants.



COP THIS LOOK

1. Floor Lamp, available at Bo Concept
2. Comback Chair by Patricia Urquiola for Kartell, available at Dexterton
3. Modern Side Tables, available at Bo Concept
4. Giraffe Head, available at Mandaue Foam

Tall Off-white Vase, Short Black Table Lamp, Gray Ceramic Pagoda, prices available upon request, all from all • White Bowl and Bone China Seashell, from Dapitan Arcade • Cotyledon Plant, P50, Margo Flowershop



* SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE HENRY HOTEL MANILA

2

DADO AND CHAIR RAIL

TIMELESS PAINT SWATCHES

Ebony Blue
(NP N 2002 A)

Mobe Pearl
(NP OW 1008 P)

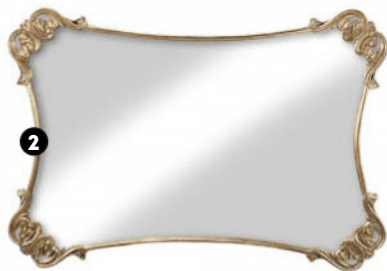
Curling Bark
(NP N 1853 T)

Burgundy
(NP R 1351 A)

Paint is one of the most common wall finishes in interiors because it's easy to apply, is a cinch to maintain, and is the most affordable among wall finishes. But to take a painted wall one step further, why not create a dado or chair rail? This classic treatment of a molding dividing the upper and lower portions of a wall was used to prevent chair backs from scuffing the wall. A chair rail can make a room more polished, and the upper portion is a great space for artwork or framed photos.

GET THIS WALL: Ask your carpenter to install a flat doorjamb 0.90 meters from the floor to form your dado. Paint the upper part in a light tint, and the lower portion in a darker tone. A three-toned wall is great for spacious interiors, cozying up the space especially if dark or muted tones are used. This wall, for instance, defines the perimeter of the room and gives it an understated play of classic hues. For a more stylish appeal, mix rich, plush colors like marsala or plum with neutral tones.

Visit www.nipponpaint.com.sg for more paint swatches



* SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE HENRY HOTEL MANILA



COP THIS LOOK

1. Wood-and-metal Framed Mirror
 2. Gold-framed Rectangular Mirror
 3. Octagonal Mirror
 4. Round Mirror in Square Frame
- All from More Than A Chair



MIRRORED PANEL

This type of wall surface is a classic interior designer's trick to make rooms appear bigger and more spacious. Mirror bounces and reflects light, creating depth and opening up a room. A mirror is ideal for narrow hallways and other tight areas in the house.

Instead of installing a simple beveled full-length mirror on a bare wall, try using a framed mirror with carved wood or brushed metal for a better impression. No budget for a big mirror? Group small but different-sized mirrors in similar finish to avoid a cluttered appearance.

GREAT IDEA: Install mirrors as a backsplash to give the illusion of a larger kitchen. This can also brighten up the counter so you can forgo overhead cabinet lights. Maintaining a mirrored backsplash is not as hard as you think: Remove hard water stains by rubbing the mirror with cloth and vinegar or lemon juice. You may also use calamansi or lime.

Lux Collection 7046 Rug 5'3"x7'6", P28,415; Petal White Stool, P5,000, both from Decoliving • Wooden Stool, P13,950; Clear Giant Bulb Edison Vase, P1,398, both from Dimensione • White Bowl, from Dapitan Arcade • Statis Flower, P100 per bunch, Tina S. Berin Flower Shop • Mammillaria Cactus, P50, Margo Flowershop



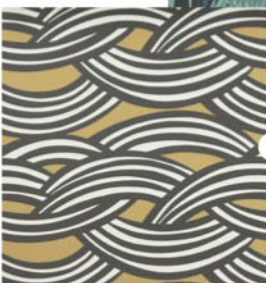
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2



3



4

TIP: IF YOU HAVE EXTRA WALLPAPER, APPLY IT TO THE BACK OF AN OLD BOOKSHELF OR ON A CONSOLE TABLE. THIS WILL INSTANTLY PULL A ROOM TOGETHER.

Finn Cabinet in American Walnut finish, P78,000; Bodega Juice Tumbler, P250 each; Rosario Tabletop Candelabra, P8,900; Simple Home Book by Mark and Sally Bailey, P2,000; Perfect Tables Book by William Yeoward, P1,700, all from KISH • Beech Equestrian on Horse, P1,995; Trousdale Coaster Set by Jonathan Adler, P3,695, both from Dimensione

WALLPAPER OPTIONS:

1. Pucker Up Buttercup, York Collection
2. Word Play, York Collection
3. Medallion Wallpaper, Contempo Collection by Antonina Vella
4. Graphic Wallpaper All from Wallprints

4

WALLPAPER

Wallpaper can automatically define a particular style of space, that's why it works best on an accent wall for both small and wide surfaces. This type of finish can be a bit pricey, so make sure you choose a pattern that you really like and that is perfect for the style you're going for.

Small prints tend to look busy from afar but will look great in small areas like the powder room. Medium-sized prints are a popular choice since they sit well in both small and big areas. Measure the wall area first before purchasing wallpaper (or ask the wallpaper supplier for a free quote) so you don't end up with a lot of excess.



* SHOT ON LOCATION AT A11



METAL WORKS

Metal can be both casual and sophisticated, depending on the application and texture of its surface. A corrugated metal sheet is best for industrial-type interiors, while bolted square metal sheets look great in minimalist contemporary homes. In this photo, the gritty, rigid look of an old metal gate or shutter adds an industrial-style touch to the interior. This is painted in a distressed white finish. Add muted-toned décor to further lighten its appearance.

OTHER OPTIONS: A plain metal sheet or a metal peg board (used for store display) as wall finishes for the study can also double as a magnetic idea board. You may also place it in the kitchen to attach recipes or notes on.

Green Dwarf, Small Cabinet, prices available upon request, both from all • Small Ceramic Plate with Bird Nest Illustration, P295, Dimensione

WHERE TO BUY

A11
2680 F.B. HARRISON ST.,
PASAY CITY
TEL. (02) 832-9972

DIMENSIONE
4/L SM MEGAMALL BLDG. B,
MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL. (02) 633-8170
WWW.DIMENSIONE.COM.PH

KISH
233 N. GARCIA ST., MAKATI CITY
TEL. (02) 896-8366
WWW.KISH.PH

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BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY,
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WWW.MORETHANACHAIR.COM

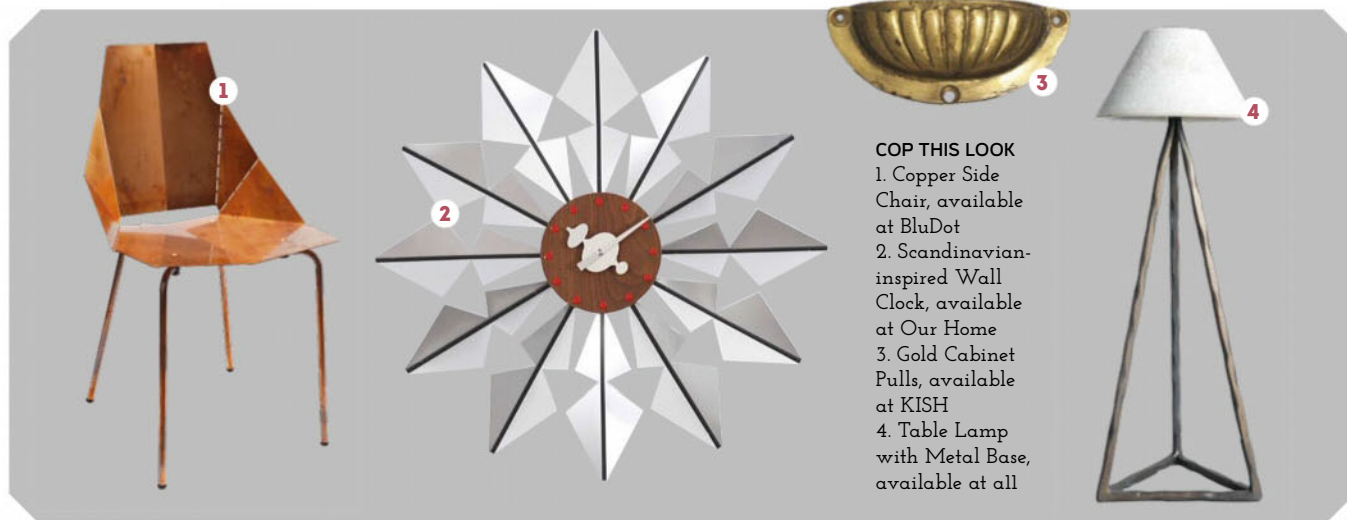
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MAKATI CITY
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COP THIS LOOK

1. Copper Side Chair, available at BluDot
2. Scandinavian-inspired Wall Clock, available at Our Home
3. Gold Cabinet Pulls, available at KISH
4. Table Lamp with Metal Base, available at all

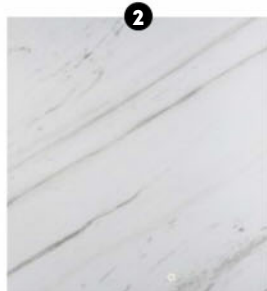
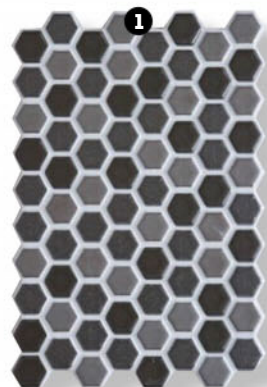
6

CLEAN-CUT & TILED

Tiles as wall finish are often used on bathroom and kitchen walls, but these can also work in other areas of the house. In fact, interior tiles can be great focal points in a room since they come in a variety of colors, textures, and surfaces.

Go for colorfully patterned Machuka tiles for that youthful Bohemian vibe, or choose sophisticated fine-grained marble-patterned tile for a subtler but similarly impressive wall. In this photo, subway tiles are made feminine with décor in soft hues and elements of flora and fauna.

FUN FACT: The subway tile is a timeless tile wall finish that became popular in 1900s when New York City first opened its subway system. You can get modern-day subway tiles locally at Rockstone, CW Home Depot Ortigas, Pasig City.



TILE OPTIONS

1. Argenta Hexa-Titanio Penny Tiles, from CW Ortigas Home Depot
2. 80x80cm White Marble Carrara in Glass Finish, available at Mozzaico
3. Machuca Tile, available at Malaga Tiles
4. Cozy Beige Tile, from Mariwasa



Black Wash Side Table, P11,950; Pols Potten Silver Bird, P495; Small White Bottle, P595; Paddle Vodka Set Oak, P3,000 per set, all from Dimensione • Tree Trunk Small Pedestal, from Dipatan Arcade • Yellow Carnation Flowers, P200, Tina S. Berin Flower Shop • Ottawa Pendant Lamp, P2,600, Möbler

photography **KURT ALVAREZ/ACME VISUAL PRODUCTIONS**
words, picks & styling **TALA SINGSON**
sittings editor **ISSA VILLAR & DAGNY MADAMBA**
SHOT ON LOCATION AT THE HENRY HOTEL MANILA

Loo, we have a guest!

BEFORE A PARTY OR A SLEEPOVER, PREP YOUR GUEST BATHROOM (OR POWDER ROOM) WITH THESE SIMPLE TIPS

ALWAYS HAVE GUEST TOWELS READY. STASH SPARE TOWELS IN A NEARBY BASKET OR BIN.

Soap Pump, P499;
Perfume Spray Bottle,
P499; Gold Metal
Collapsible Basket,
P899; Striped Woven
Basket, P899, all from
H&M Home • Guest
Towel with Monogram,
P420; Olivia Organic
Shampoo, P1,140;
Musco Real Cologne
Oak Moss, P2,680;
Rich Hand Cream by
Fraganza, P530, all
from AC+632 • Anne
Medium Clear Vase,
P2,395, Dimensione
• Metal Ring with
Stand, White Vase,
Marble Cheese Plate,
prices available upon
request, all from a11

TIP Start with a clean slate—a spotless bathroom should be first on your to-do list.

ADD LITTLE INDULGENCES.

If you can afford to pamper your house guests, a few little luxuries you can offer may include loofahs, lotion or body milk, cologne, and pre-shave and aftershave oil. Remember to cater to your male and female company. You can also leave them a hairdryer. Arrange all of these in a nice basket or tray as if you're welcoming your guests with a gift!

Collapsible Wire Metal Basket, P899; Perfume Spray Bottle, P499; Musco Real Cologne Oak Moss, P2,680; Rich Hand Cream by Fraganza; P530, Guest Towel with Monogram, P420 each; Hand-Painted Coaster, P2,380 per set of 6, all from AC+632 • Small Golden Box, P299, Dimensione • Marble Cheese Plate, price available upon request, a11



KEEP IT SCENTED.

Generally, you should always avoid strong-smelling scents in the bathroom. It gives the impression that you're masking an unpleasant odor. Because one scent may be fair for one but distasteful to another, you may try natural scents like rain, bamboo, citrus and grapefruit, or vanilla. Use reed diffusers or candles so your guests have options.

Tray with Botanical Print, P2,480 • Soy Wax Candle in Recycled Wine Bottle by Bo Bendre, P580, both from AC+632 • Pineapple Scented Soy Candle, White Vase, prices available upon request, both from a11



TIP Pick out a nice scent in a similarly stylish container that goes well with other décor.

TIP Save the free toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes you get from hotel visits for your guest's use.

LAY OUT THE ESSENTIALS.

Cover all the bases with bath towels. Provide two per guest, along with hand towels, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Prepare everything you think your guests might have forgotten, and a few more. Stack towels neatly, and transfer liquid toiletries in nice containers to double as décor.

Wooden Side Table, P8,595; Clear Container with Legs, P2,495; Round Mercury Glass Box, P1,295, all from Dimensione • Soap Pump, P499; Wire Candle Holder, P899, both from H&M Home • Olivia Organic Shampoo, P1,140, AC+632 • White Ceramic Tray, a11



AN EASY BATHROOM FACELIFT

Here are a few tricks to spruce up your guest loo without breaking the bank

1. UPDATE YOUR SHOWER CURTAIN.

A drastic change can be achieved just by replacing an old shower curtain. H&M Home has a great selection.

2. HANG ART ON THE WALL.

For an instant homey feel, hang framed artwork above the watercloset or an empty wall.

3. ADD FURNITURE. A slim chair or small table will give additional countertop space especially if your guest bathroom has none.

4. PICK A THEME. Unify your shower curtains, soap pumps, and other accessories with a theme that's understated yet elegant.

WHERE TO BUY:

A11 2680 FB HARRISON COMPOUND, PASAY CITY TEL. (02) 832-9972

AC+632 2/L GREENBELT 5, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY TEL. (02) 758-2564

DIMENSIONE 9TH ST., BONIFACIO HIGH STREET, BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY, TAGUIG CITY TEL. (02) 856-6756

H&M HOME 6/L SM MAKATI, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY WWW.HM.COM/PH

Wall wonder

In this month's recycling project, old knobs and objects lying around the house are transformed into a cool wall organizer

MATERIALS

- An old piece of wood, ½" thick
- Spare drawer knobs
- Used book holder
- Drill
- Jigsaw
(a power tool used for cutting wood)
- Screw gun
- Sandpaper

RE-DO IT

1. Using a jigsaw, cut the piece of wood into desired size.
2. Smoothen the piece of wood using sandpaper.
3. Drill a hole onto the upper left and right corners of the book holder.
4. Drill a hole onto the piece of wood where you will attach the book holder.
5. Drill three holes near the bottom of the wood. This is where you will attach the drawer knobs, which will serve as hooks.
6. Using a screw gun, fasten the book holder and knobs onto the wood with nuts and bolts.
7. Mount it on your wall.

IF YOU'RE USING THIS IN YOUR BEDROOM, YOU CAN PLACE YOUR CURRENT READ ON THE BOOK HOLDER.

crafts **CRAFT MNL**
photography **KURT ALVAREZ**
styling **PAULA DE GUZMAN**
words **KATHERINE LOPEZ**

SHOT ON LOCATION AT ALL HOME

Check out Craft MNL's cool DIY workshop skeds at www.craftmnl.com, or follow them on Twitter @CraftMNL, and on Instagram @craftmnl.

REAL *homes*

HODGEPODGE ECLECTIC * RETRO PINOY * URBAN WANDERLUST * BOHO LUXE * PLAYFUL MODERN *



Once in a while, it's nice to decorate your home with pieces that have been well loved. Read about how a designer filled her space with refurbished old pieces, or how a girl created a condo that takes you through different styles and places, and how a homeowner furnished his Malate dwelling with antique picks. After all, a home's beauty lies not just in its aesthetics, but also in the stories that each corner tells.

AWESOME SPACE

A GIRL SETS OUT TO LIVE ON HER
OWN AND CREATES A CONDO
INFUSED WITH UNIQUE CHARACTER
AND TRAVEL-INSPIRED STYLE

photography **PAOLO FELICIANO**

styling **DAGNY MADAMBA & TALA SINGSON**

words **BUBBLES SALVADOR**



The sockets of these pendant lights were originally in white. Steph repainted them in black for a sleeker look. Find similar lights at Urban Abode, CW Home Depot Ortigas, Julia Vargas cor. Meralco Ave., Pasig City.

Referring to the daybed, homeowner Steph Tan says, "I actually sleep there a lot." The extra large seating space is especially useful when her friends come over. "I have a lot of my quiet time there on the couch in the morning—reading, reflecting, writing a journal."



The two vintage chairs have never been reupholstered or repainted, but Steph would always get compliments for them. “They’re really comfortable, and that’s the only reason I kept them. *Wala akong idea na puwede mo pala i-mix sa ibang style.* They give that very nice vibe, and I’ve been playing around with them.”

{INTERIOR TALK}

LIGHTING: GO BIG Don’t be afraid to go big on chandeliers and other lighting fixtures. It can look overwhelming, especially when they extend both vertically and horizontally. Here are expert tips and tricks from architect Jerry Isles to make sure you don’t go overboard when choosing bigger-than-usual light fixtures.

1. Think of your home’s theme. Once you have this figured out, you will know where to shop. The key is in clever mixing

and matching of pieces.

2. Look at the furniture in the area. You can choose a chandelier that will either harmonize or contrast with your furniture.

3. Determine how big you should go. You can use a chandelier on a nine-foot-high ceiling, provided its size will be proportional. Higher ceilings would require a grander design. Choose a chandelier with lines to create the illusion of height.

Little miracles led up to that day in 2012 when Steph Tan moved into her condo unit in Quezon City. She had found a bigger unit, but could only afford half of the monthly rent. And despite its size, the 54-sqm, one-bedroom condo did not exactly fit her idea of a space she could live in.

As far as Steph was concerned, only God could have had a part in the events that occurred next. The owner agreed to lower the rental after she had offered to do minor repainting and repairs, with the agreement that she would move out anytime there was a better offer from another tenant. Then, stuck with a space she had no idea where to start fixing up, Steph met interior designer Barbie Tan who helped her out.

Steph had recently moved out of her parents’ home, and she had very little idea how much it would cost to live on her own. “*Ang mahal pala ng couch!*” she laughs. Realizing that she had a lot more to learn, Steph forged ahead.

The monotone doors and walls, a rundown bed and sofa, and two vintage chairs seemed far from ideal as starting points for her home project. “*Wala talaga akong alam, so sabi ko kay Barbie, ‘Ikaw na ang bahala.’* I just gave her a few colors that I like—dark, masculine tones. I told her that I wanted this to be a reflection of me. I want it to be very personal and comfortable,” says Steph.

In Steph’s possession are two abstract paintings by her childhood friend Risa Recio. She confesses she is not partial to abstract art, but loved the use of

[FLOOR PLAN] FLOOR AREA 54 SQM



"I JUST GAVE HER A FEW COLORS THAT I LIKE—DARK, MASCULINE TONES. I WANT IT TO BE VERY PERSONAL AND COMFORTABLE."

"A lot of my life revolves around the dining table," Steph shares. She scored the table with matching benches from a custom furniture maker in Bulacan. "The fact that it's made from repurposed wood—it feels good *na meron pa siyang* extra life. It has so much character," adds Steph.



orange, white, and black in those particular pieces, which eventually became the basis for the color scheme of her unit.

“Wala masyadong furniture dito nung una. Just two old chairs, some cabinets, a daybed, and a bed inside the room. Naisip ko ipaayos na lang, kasi wala akong alam sa prices ng furniture. Na-discourage ako,” Steph narrates. A stroke of Barbie’s genius left Steph with two daybeds (the old daybed and a bed reupholstered in black) and two worn-down chairs that add to the unique charm of the living area.

In the bedroom, Steph uses her old bed from her parents’ house, “the one thing I said I had to bring with me.” Adding to her possessions which hold sentimental value are a portable piano given by her grandfather, and a 1993 Dahon bike from her grandparents.

Steph hangs out most of the time on the daybed, while the dining area is her second favorite spot. “I like having a lot of people over. I started experimenting in the kitchen when I started living on my own. When I travel, I bring home spices. Thankfully, *yung friends ko mahilig kumain,*” relates Steph.

Further improvements on the space are definitely in Steph’s to-do list: “Paint the doors! *Pero plain white lang, kasi boring ako.* I also need to get a rug, hang the paintings—things I feel like I could live without, *kaya di pa sila nagagawa.*”

Having lived on her own for the last few years, Steph has come to many realizations, among them, “People can live in the exact same area, and they would choose to make it different. My home is a reflection of who I am. Since I’m renting, I never thought I’d be able to make it into something I would like because I have limited time or finances,” she says.

And although Steph lives alone, the doors to her home are always open to many of her friends. “This place is such a blessing. I can’t not share this. I prayed for a bigger place I could share with others. I enjoy hosting people, having friends over. It’s like taking care of a gift that was presented to you,” she ends. **RL**

“I ENJOY HOSTING PEOPLE, HAVING FRIENDS OVER. IT’S LIKE TAKING CARE OF A GIFT THAT WAS PRESENTED TO YOU.”

BEYOND BANIG

Take your pick from these contemporary pieces that pay tribute to the traditional banig

THREE’S A CROWD. Cozy up an entertainment room with these lounge pillows. *Floor Pillows, P1,999.75, P2,000, P4,474.74, all from Grassroots, 3/L Greenbelt 5, Makati City*



BASKET WEAVE. Use this as a planter for your small leafy plants, or as a tabletop organizer. *Raffia Square Basket, P499.75, Grassroots*

ROUNDAABOUT. Mirror a round dining table with a bold, round rug for greater visual impact. *Round Banig, price available upon request, Negros Trade Fair, www.negrostradefair.com*

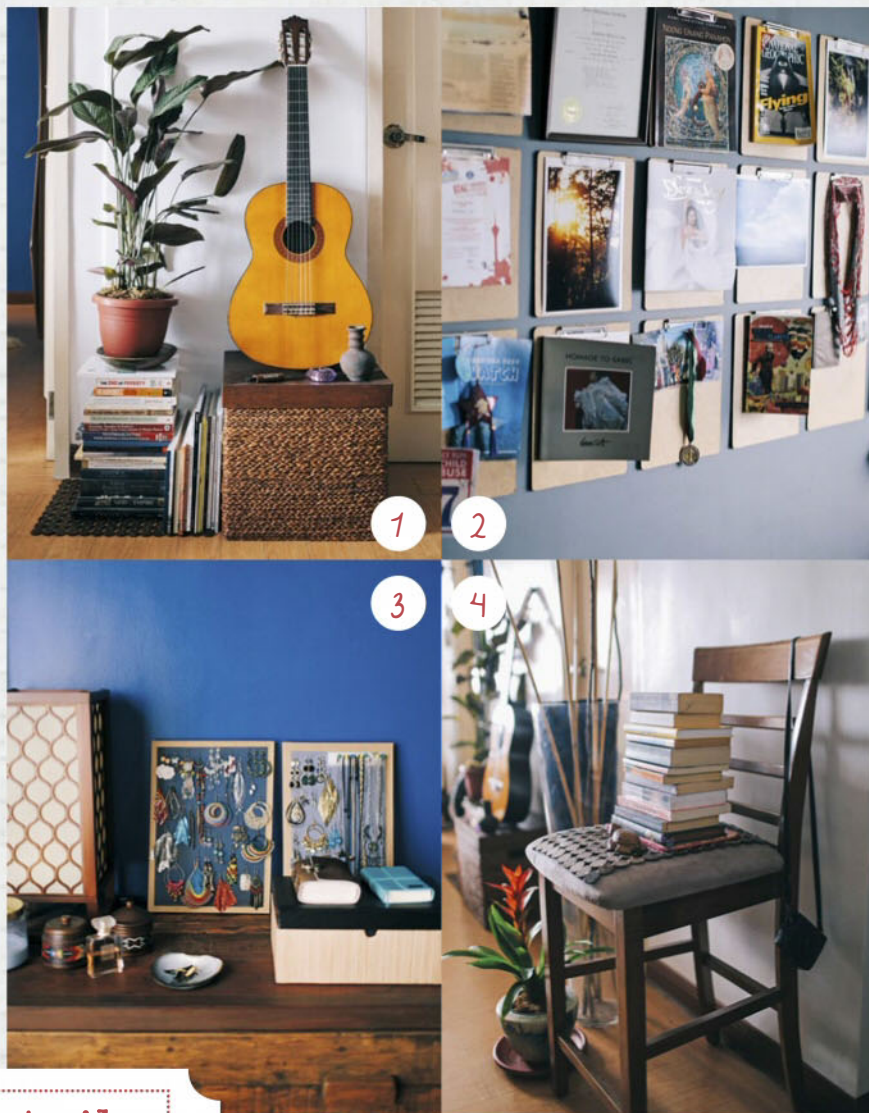


NATURAL STACK. Tidy up your home with these simple but versatile storage pieces. *Storage Boxes, P950 (Small), P1,250 (Large), Make Room and More, Bonifacio High Street, BGC, Taguig*

The dark shade of blue on the walls is just perfect for Steph's bedroom. "It's very bright in the morning, and at night, it feels so restful." The *banig*, which Steph simply taped on the wall as headboard, is from Samar. "I'm from Zamboanga. I love *banig*. I've had this for a while, *pero di ko nagamit kasi feeling ko hindi bagay*. I recently remembered it and thought, what if *ilagay ko siya doon?*"

Steph made use of this *banig* as her makeshift headboard. Find similar at Negros Trade Fair, an annual expo of Negros producers, www.negrostradefair.com.

SHELF LIFE This pair of floating shelves is not too expensive to install, but it absolutely does wonders to a blank wall by the main door. What you see on it pretty much sums up a number of Steph's great loves: reading, traveling, flying, and diving.



Details



VERY VERSATILE. STEPH CAN EASILY CHANGE UP THE CONTENTS OF THE CLIPBOARDS, DEPENDING ON THE ADVOCACY SHE IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTING, A STAGE SHOW SHE JUST WATCHED, OR WHICH SET OF FRIENDS RECENTLY CAME TO HANG OUT AT HER PLACE. IN THE SAME WAY, THE BLACK UPHOLSTERY OF THE DAY BED SETS THE STAGE FOR THROW PILLOWS IN VARIOUS PATTERNS. EVEN THE PLAIN ONES MAKE A STATEMENT, TOO.

1. STRINGS ATTACHED. Steph likes trying new things like learning to play a guitar. Plus, when friends come over, they are free to tinker with it, too. "It's a very sexy instrument," adds Steph.

2. CLIP ART. Steph wanted to veer away from picture frames, and instead chose clipboards to fill the blank wall in the living area. Apart from being a conversation starter for guests, the off-kilter decor also serves as an interactive wall where people can write notes and post their printed photos on.

3. BLING 'EM ON. Adding a feminine touch to Steph's bedroom is her open display of jewelry and accessories. These sit atop a dresser made by a custom furniture maker from Bulacan.

4. PLEASE SIT. This chair from Steph's mom's house does double duty as extra seating for guests, and as a place for her books.

OLD BEAUTY.

Upholstered Side Chair, price available upon request, all



TIP
FOR IMPACT,
CONTRAST A VINTAGE
CHAIR AGAINST A
SLEEK, POLISHED
TABLE.

TEAL APPEAL. Gram
Collection Teal 3'x5' Wool
Rug, P29,415, Decoliving



ABSTRACT REASONING. Framed
Art, P800, Mandaue Foam

SUNNY SPHERE.

Capiz Drop
Light, find
similar
at Robles
Heritage



COMMUNAL SEAT. Commune
A Bench, P23,000, KISH

TIP
USE A BENCH IN
A SMALL DINING
AREA TO SEAT
MORE PEOPLE.

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Fishbone
Leaf, P200
each,
all from
Mandaue
Foam



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Blue Pillow,
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Llndochine;
Colorful
Pillow,
P399.75,
SM Home;
Woven
Throw
Pillow Cover,
find similar
at Urban
Abode

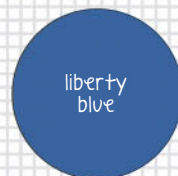


THE AVIATOR. Bomber
Aircraft Décor, P1,000,
Chrysara Nest



BLACK OUT. Luther Sofa,
price available upon
request, Dexterton

{ COLOR PALETTE }



Another hand-me-down from homeowner Grace Mostlares's parents is the narra console table with matching mirror, set in between the living and dining areas. On top is a vase with yellow plastic flowers. "Happy *ako dun eh!* Even if fresh is better, every time I see those yellow dancing flowers, I feel happy!"



Rubberized paint is the secret to making this formerly dark area come alive. With dark-hued tiles installed on the walls, Grace had no other choice but to simply change its color, and she chose to work with rubberized paint ("Kapag ordinary paint, mababaklas 'yon."). This enabled her to use her preferred color while keeping the brick-like texture of the tiles on the wall. For retouching small chips, Grace simply uses white correction fluid.

HOUSE ON A HILL

A DESIGNER EMBARKS ON THE MOST DIFFICULT TASK: RENOVATING HER OWN HOME. THE RESULT? AN ABODE THAT'S CHIC, HAPPY, AND TAILORED-FIT TO HER LIFESTYLE.

WOOD YOU? Grace's most prized possessions are pieces by Antipolo-based artist Benji Reyes: two wooden chairs and a hat rack. "I love the contemporary style of wood. I really planned to have these highlighted in the living room."



GRACE SIMPLY FELT THAT MOVING IN TO A NEW HOME WAS THE PERFECT TIME FOR A BIG CHANGE

{INTERIOR TALK}

TRANSFORMING TILES

Using rubberized paint, Grace changed dark-colored wall tiles to basic white, with its crevices providing a unique, brick-like texture. Apply this trick when you want to change the color of your tiles, but keep in mind the following:

1. Steer clear of areas that are frequently subject to high moisture such as the

bath and kitchen areas, so that the paint doesn't peel off easily.

2. Make sure the surface is free of dirt, mold, and ceramic particles by cleaning it with soap and water. Let it dry for about an hour.

3. Don't forget to mask off baseboards and trims with painter's tape before applying rubberized paint. Let it dry for a few hours.

Design consultant Grace Moslares, whose vibrant and bubbly personality would explain her preference for such a bright hue, admits to having a pink house before. "I like color *eh*," she declares. But entering her 80-sqm, two-story home in Antipolo now, one would wonder why she chose to have it painted a subtle white.

Grace simply felt that moving in to a new home was the perfect time for a big change, and there was no better way to start than by changing the color scheme. She admits, "I've never used white, *kahit sa clients ko*. It was just *na gusto kong maiba naman*."

After all, this is a home she shares with her son Paolo, mom Ofelia, and nephew Jong, together with two helpers whom she calls their "angels." As such, the house had to be pleasing to the eye, and at the same time, every inch of space had to be fully maximized and utilized.

The first order of the day after Grace had acquired the place was to change the wall color. "When I got this house, the living room was basically brown, so I rubber-painted it white. The workers who did the



ABOVE Artworks by Popo San Pascual, Mai Ongkiko, and Grace herself stand out beautifully against the all-white background. "*Naka-nylon string from the ceiling lahat ng frames so I didn't have to drill holes on the wall*," she says.

LEFT "Kitchen people *kami*. My mom is a great cook, and *yung 'angels' ko, luto lang nang luto*. *Lahat kami mahilig kumain*," Grace says with a laugh. This breakfast nook with pink chairs is often busy, with family members grabbing a quick bite, or Grace working on her sketches. The *platera* and *aparador*, formerly used as her wardrobe but now repurposed as their kitchen pantry, are bargain finds from an antique shop in Marikina.



PLAYGROUND

Grace's son Paolo created most of the framed art on the dining area wall. "He used various materials like silk screen and poster color. It was my best friend Mai Ongkiko who worked with him on those," Grace points out. The six-seater dining table with *solihya* chairs came from her mom, while the black-and-white chandelier, which matches the one in the living area, is from A&S Lamps, CW Home Depot, Ortigas.



ABOVE Storage was a challenge for this mom who used to live in a bigger house. "How would I be able to fit my things? The real test was in maximizing the space," Grace says, who instantly found a solution by installing box shelves even in awkward corners. The yellow Panton chairs play up the dark floor finish and the spotless white walls.

"WHITE
WORKED
FOR ME
BECAUSE
ANYTIME
PUWEDE
AKONG
MAG-
IBA NG
MOTIF."

LOW SEATS

Ottomans and stools instantly provide extra seating and added flair

RUSTIC TOUCH. This piece looks great indoors or out. *Slug Stool, P10,120, Haute Design, LRI Design Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Makati City*



TOUCH OF BLUE.

This has a delicate pattern that isn't too girly. *Kamote Stool, P2,500, Mandaue Foam, www.mandauefoam.ph*



NEUTRAL NUMBER. Its timeless form and fun pattern make it appropriate in any interior. *Foot Stool, P3,995, Philux, SM Megamall*



GOING DOTTY. Polka dots are back, and this cute seat will work nicely in a teenager's bedroom. *Polka Dot Stool, P2,495, Our Home, SM Megamall*

renovation kept asking, *'Puti talaga? Sigurado kayo?'* *Ayoko ng kahit ano, basta lahat puti.* When I brought in my stuff—*yung iba* from my mom and dad *pa—ang bilis lang niya maiayos,*” says Grace.

She also had to redo the layout, making the living area smaller to accommodate the dining area. Upstairs, Grace had to construct walls in the loft-type bedroom, which was formerly open, so they could have more privacy. A window in the master bedroom was also converted into an access door leading to a mini pool area.

Luckily, Grace used to live in a house that was almost thrice the size of the space she has now, so it wasn't necessary to make new purchases. *“Everything diyang, hindi naman bago. Yung iba, matagal ko nang possessions,”* she says. Other furniture pieces are gifts from friends, while some accessories are finds from thrift shops and garage sales. The framed artwork on the walls are either Grace's own or Paolo's, combined with those of her friends.

On the other hand, there was also the problem of trying to fit in her stuff, particularly in the master bedroom. Because having a California king bed was a non-negotiable for Grace and her son, finding a place for their personal belongings was a challenge. She solved this by adding hanging shelves, stackable storage boxes, and a “walk-in closet” of sorts, which she quips *“is a nightmare to clean for our manang.”*

As it turns out, Grace's new color preference served as the perfect canvas not only for her art, but also for the things that she already owns—with careful planning, of course. *“White worked for me probably because I also mixed it with artwork. And anytime, puwede akong mag-iba ng motif,”* adds Grace.

In hindsight, a house that is just the right size for her family turned out to be most suitable. Grace explains, *“Hindi siya high maintenance. If you have a big house—and I have worked on so many big houses—maintaining it is difficult. With a small house, lahat nandun na. You can just organize everything. Alam mo agad ano yung sobra o kulang. Di ka basta-basta magho-hoard ng things. Kahit kami, nadi-discipline in that aspect.”*

One of the things Grace is thankful for is that friends would really make the drive up to Antipolo to visit her at home. Asking directions at the village entrance is no problem, too. *“Sasabihin ng guards, 'Ah yung puting bahay,'”* says Grace, as theirs is the only one painted white among rows of houses with a uniform color.

As for the one thing that gives Grace great pride, it is her home's distinctive design that you wouldn't find anywhere else. *“No one actually has it. This house is really 'me'—lahat ng in-install ko, nilagay ko, in-experiment ko. Ang sinasamba kong designer is Jonathan Adler, so it's an artistic, happy, chic house.”* **RL**



ABOVE The white concrete walls in the mini-pool area, where one also catches a beautiful view of the sky, are reminiscent of houses in Santorini. *“Yung owner ng house before had a child also, so matagal na itong mini-pool sa side. Inayos lang namin, so diyang na rin kami sa sitting area umiinom ng wine or coffee,”* Grace shares. This is also one of Paolo's favorite spots. **LEFT** From here, one catches a glimpse of the red sliding door with capiz detail, which opens up to the breakfast nook. *“Love ko 'yan. 'Yan ang first door ng shop ko noon,”* shares Grace. A papag (daybed) by Benji Reyes is set by the main door, as if inviting guests to sit for a while and enjoy the fresh breeze.

POWER OF BLUE. Providing a stark contrast to the white tile walls are electrical outlets Grace had spray-painted in bright cobalt blue.

Details

ARTIST'S HANDIWORK THE DAINTY FLORAL DETAILS ON THIS NARRA CONSOLE TABLE WERE HAND-DECOUPAGED BY DECORATOR GWYN GUANZON. RED PROVED TO BE THE PERFECT BACKGROUND FOR BRINGING OUT THE PATTERN'S FINE LINES AND CURVES.

1. HAVE A SEAT. An unfinished wooden kiddie chair and the capiz detail on the door both lend a Pinoy vibe, complementing Grace's love for the work of local artists.

2. ROOM FOR SQUARES. Scored from a shop in Cavite, this square art installation rests above the mini-pool, and is accentuated by the black lines against the white concrete wall.

3. PULL TO OPEN. Kitchen cabinet pulls come in wrought iron, custom-made by a welder.

4. REST HERE. Wooden armchairs at the pool area, bought at a garage sale in Marikina, have a distressed, weathered look, making them ideal for outdoor use.



**DESIGNER
DETAIL.**

Ari Lounge
Chair, price
available
upon request,
Vito Selma

TIP
IF YOU'RE AFRAID
TO INJECT STRONG
COLORS INTO YOUR
HOME, TRY THEM IN
SMALLER DOSES, LIKE
IN PILLOWS.

**CLASSIC
FORM.**

Round
Side Table,
P4,150,
Mandaue
Foam



BOLD & BRIGHT.

Rug, P1,950,
Mandaue Foam



COMPLEMENTARY CUSHIONS.

Purple Cushion, P420; Yellow Cushion,
P2,299.75, both from Our Home



**VISUAL
ARRANGEMENT.**

Picture Frames,
find similar at
Our Home



METALLIC GLOW. Bourgie
Lamp, price available
upon request, Dexterton

TIP
THIS ICONIC PIECE
IS VERSATILE—IT
WORKS WELL IN
CLASSICAL, QUIRKY,
OR MODERN
INTERIORS.

GET THE
LOOK
OF A
FLEA-MARKET-
STYLE
HOME

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STREET, BONIFACIO GLOBAL
CITY, TAGUIG CITY
TEL. (02) 856-6756
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157 SGT. E. RIVERA STREET,
QUEZON CITY
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MANDAUE FOAM

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TEL. (02) 234-1112
WWW.MANDAUEFOAM.PH

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EDSA COR.
DONA JULIA VARGAS AVE.,
MANDALUYONG CITY
WWW.OURHOME.PH

VITO SELMA

WWW.VITOSELMA.COM



CITRUS TWIST. Yellow Vase,
P999.75, Our Home; Red Vase,
P860, Mandaue Foam

**GOLD
ILLUSION.**

Armoire,
P26,800,
Dimensione



{ COLOR PALETTE }



PAST PERFECT

Savonarola-style antique wooden chairs and benches complete this classic setup, but it is offset by the exuberantly colored red walls and ceiling. Homeowner Joshua Formentera adds an off-kilter touch by nonchalantly hanging an oil painting on the window.



ONE MAN CREATES AN IDYLIC
TRIBUTE TO HIS PROVINCE IN THE
HEART OF OLD MANILA

photography **MIGUEL NACIANCENO**
 pictorial direction **DAGNY MADAMBA & ISSA VILLAR**
 words **TOM CASTAÑEDA**



The stairwell is painted in a lively yellow hue. The old, wrought iron grilles are retained, while a contemporary painting keeps the space up-to-date.





{INTERIOR TALK}

HERITAGE HOMES Heritage houses make for a very interesting choice to settle in, especially considering the many storied details of the structure. But of course, an age-old home has already gone through a lot of wear and tear. Aside from the necessary paperwork needed to acquire such property, the task of renovating an ancestral home may be daunting. Here are a few tips you should consider when fixing up a historic home.

1. Reinforce existing foundations. When architect Robert Arambulo took on the challenge of rehabilitating an ancestral home in Taal to turn it into a bed-and-breakfast (the place, called Villa Severina, was featured in *RL*'s April 2011 issue), he made sure to fix everything that was deteriorating. "We had to re-strengthen a lot of the foundations and add additional structures like the flooring because the house is old, and so that it could take the weight of more people." He also made sure

to repair roof leaks and get rid of termite infestation.

2. Salvage materials. If the ancestral house still has sound features, like wood flooring or solid wood beams, by all means, salvage them. Doing so ensures that you retain the original look of the place, which is the charm of heritage homes in the first place.

3. Consider its original aesthetics. When adding new materials to an ancestral home, always consider the house's original look and feel. "You have to respect the style and architecture of the period," advises Robert. Try sourcing "new" materials from secondhand shops so that your new addition will not look jarring and out of place amid the old interiors. In case you really want to add something modern, do so by means of accent pieces—a sleek vase or a console table, for instance. If you feel like incorporating a totally different style, do it in one area, say a bathroom that's modern and monochromatic.

Blink while on a leisurely stroll down Conchu Street in Manila's historic Malate district, and you might just miss Joshua Formentera's quaint and quiet home. But look past the characterless concrete wall separating his two-story residence from the sidewalk, step through the modest metal gate, and you'll instantly be transported back in time.

"In its current state, this house reflects the way we lived in my province while growing up in Leyte," says Joshua, who happened upon the old, Spanish-style home completely by chance 15 years ago. "The windows instantly caught my attention, and I thought, 'Wow, it's really airy.' Back in Baybay City, we have big, inviting windows, and you just feel at home. I missed that, especially after having lived in the city for a decade. And I knew that I could replicate the look and feel of my own home in the province."

Even though he's only renting the post-World War II home, which once served as a student dormitory, Joshua set out to breathe an old-world lifestyle into the space with classic, distinctly Filipino furniture he has inherited from family members over time.

"My mom has always told me that I was the right person to leave these items to," discloses Joshua, who considers himself an old soul. "She knew that I love anything classic and traditional, compared with my brothers and sisters who've always liked more modern stuff."

Slowly but surely, Joshua transported his favorite pieces from his family home to Manila—including his grandmother's wooden bedroom set and the delicate crochet bed cover she'd crafted by hand when he was a child—until he finally had enough items to complete his home.

"When you see the items in this house, even my plates, they're all old. I will cherish these heirlooms until I die, and then I'll pass them on to my daughter," asserts Joshua, a philanthropist, entrepreneur, and founder of the Centennial School of the Philippines, a premier pre-elementary, elementary, and secondary private school in Laguna. "They're a part of my family heritage. And they should be passed down from generation to generation."

There's more than family history on display in Joshua's home, though. During his numerous treks around the world, this avid traveler and collector has made an effort to pick up art, antiques, and artifacts along the way. A watercolor painting from Vietnam, antique leather and wood chairs from Denmark, and a sculpture

"THEY'RE A PART OF MY FAMILY HERITAGE. AND THEY SHOULD BE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION."



Right off the formal dining room leading to the garden is the informal dining room, which Joshua fixed up with brand-new ceramic tiles.



An awkward, under-the-stairs corner in the living room is livened up with an antique narra bookcase, a wooden loveseat, and a tribal bench that also serves as a coffee table.

"I LIKE FINDING THINGS THAT ARE DIFFERENT, THAT YOU REALLY CAN'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE," SAYS JOSHUA. "ANYTHING UNIQUE THAT BLENDS INTO THE HOME AND ADDS CHARACTER TO THE HOUSE."

TRIBAL LIFE

These indigenous touches add old-world charm

RICE GODS. Position these icons in a soothing spot. *Nito Décor*, P599.75 and P799.75, *Kultura Filipino*, *SM Makati*



SACRED FABRIC. Beautiful as a wall hanging. *Mini Kinu Ttiyan Burial Cloth*, P7,000, *The Manila Collectible Co.*, *Intramuros*

MOTHER OF PEARL. Doubles as a lovely storage piece. *Inlaid Chest*, P1,500, *Usman Ethnica and Antiques*, *Tiendesitas*



NECK AND NECK. Hang on the wall as a work of art. *Tribal Necklace*, P8,500, *Cordillera Antiques*

photography OCS & KURT ALVAREZ



This house's one and only kitchen opens directly onto the formal dining room. An antique *platera* houses the dinnerware and crystal.



"My grandparents loved color, even when it came to their clothes, and I inherited that appreciation for color," proclaims Joshua. "I painted part of the house yellow because it gives life to the home. It's powerful, but welcoming. And it helps balance the home."

from Thailand—each comes with its own story.

"I like finding things that are different, that you really can't find anywhere else," says Joshua. "Anything unique that blends into the home and adds character to the house. People who come here say, 'Wow, it's not overdone,' and they seem to appreciate everything because they really can't see things like this in Manila. And it educates them about history and different cultures."

But Joshua wasn't content with just filling his home with heirlooms. So, with permission from the house's owner, he started restoring the home to its old glory. "I started renovating the house slowly," recalls Joshua. "I wanted to take on the challenge one room at a time, so I could see the progress over time and feel satisfaction at looking at it during every stage along the way."

His first project: converting the home's veranda-like space, which had become a transient's room overflowing with castoffs from previous tenants, into an intimate dining area overlooking a Zen rock garden. "I cleared everything, and then I slowly started bringing in all the stones," Joshua recalls. "Eventually, I brought in the Hindu and Buddhist statues and the fountain to complete the look and feel of the space. It's now an ideal place for entertaining my friends and

family when they come to visit, whether to enjoy a nice meal in the dining area or to just lounge in the garden."

Fifteen years later, Joshua's favorite space is still the one he first decorated: the Spanish-inspired living room, complete with solid-wood furniture, dark-red-and-mustard-painted walls, and wrought iron-covered windows. "During my travels to Spain, Portugal, and the Mediterranean, I came across spaces like this, rooms that have that Spanish charm while being warm and inviting," reveals Joshua. "I really wanted to recreate that feeling in my own living room. And, I wanted to bring the outdoors in, so I planted trees outside of this room twelve years ago. Now that they're fully grown, they've helped bring more life into the space."

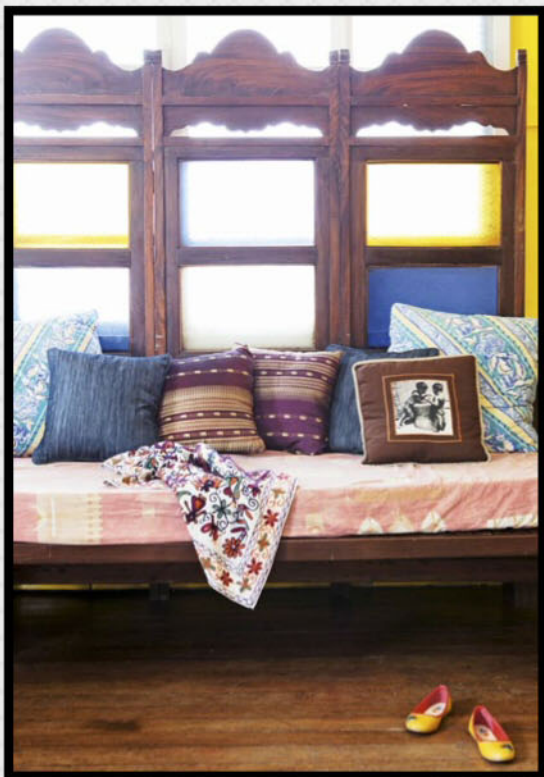
Joshua's home, which he hopes to buy from its current owner one day, is still a work in progress. He has a list of projects he plans to tackle in the near future, including adding a bathroom on the second floor and creating another garden at the back of the house. But he can't help but smile when he looks at his home in its current state.

"I'm really proud of what I've been able to do with this space," Joshua beams. "You can't find anything like this anywhere in the entire city, in my opinion. It's just so different, and so special to me." **RL**



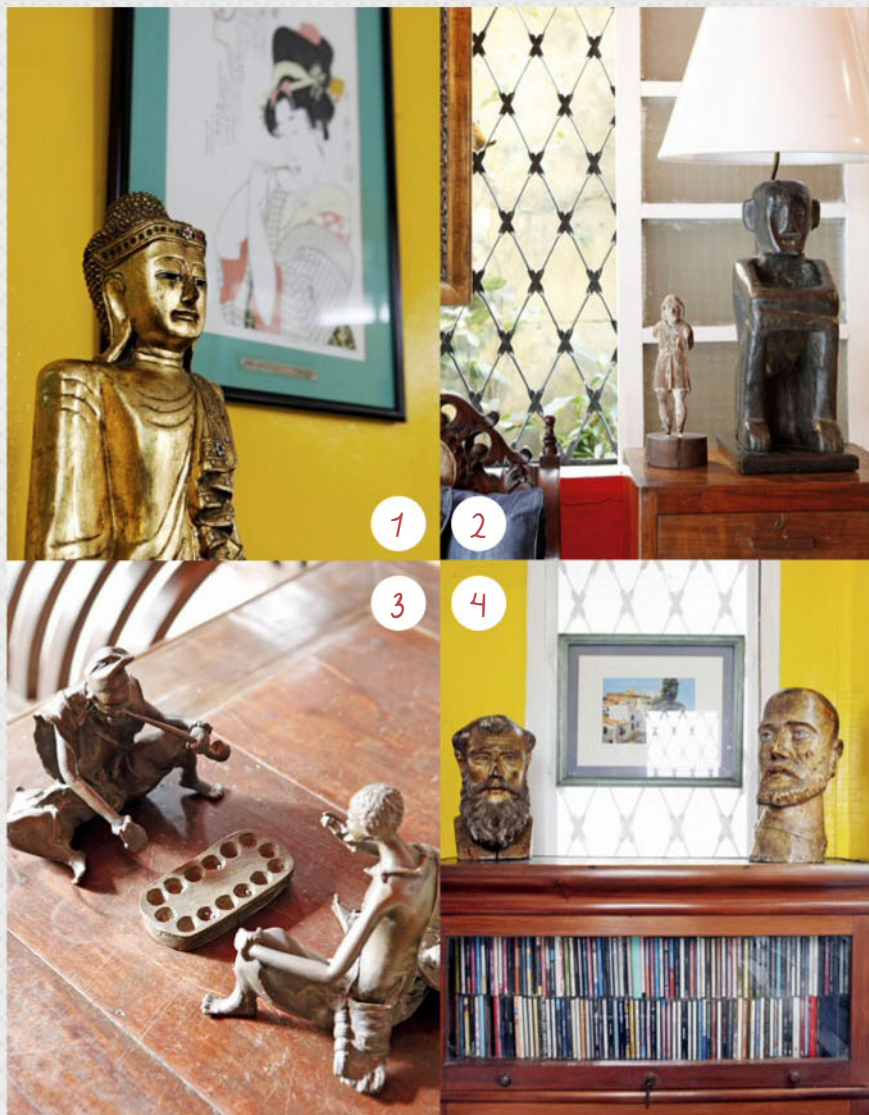
A four-post bed, complete with a grand headboard and turnings, is the focal point in Joshua's bedroom.

A generously sized daybed occupies most of the second-floor family room. Find similar embroidered throw at L'Indochine in SM Aura, Taguig City, and similar pillows at Sifra, Glorietta 4, Makati City.



Details

FORM AND FUNCTION. THERE'S ANOTHER REASON JOSHUA PROUDLY USES ANTIQUE PIECES, LIKE THESE INTRICATELY DESIGNED NARRA CHAIRS IN HIS LIVING ROOM. "IT'S NOT REALLY COMFORTABLE TO SIT ON WOODEN FURNITURE FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME," SAYS JOSHUA, WHO WANTS TO MAKE SURE HIS DAUGHTER STAYS ACTIVE WHEN AT HOME. "SO YOU REALLY CAN'T STAY SEATED FOR LONG SPELLS! SO YOU'RE FORCED TO BE UP AND ABOUT."



1. AN EYE FOR ANTIQUES.

Joshua loves collecting treasures he believes will add character to his home, like this golden Buddha statue from Thailand and the Japanese print that he picked up at a shop on Evangelista Street.

2. HISTORY ILLUMINATED.

During a trip to Banaue, Joshua got this antique wooden bul-ol figure, which the Igorot people of northern Luzon use to guard the rice crop. Later, Joshua had it turned into a lamp.

3. CROSS-CULTURE. In the living room are pieces bought from a trip to West Africa: the statues of two African farmers playing a game similar to *sungka*.

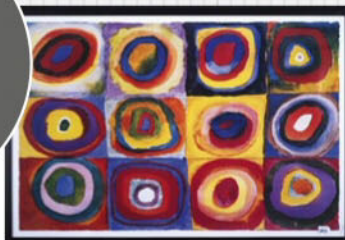
4. BUSTED. Joshua takes great pride in the vintage Spanish busts he inherited from his grandparents. "On my mother's side, they were very religious and collected all kinds of *rebutos* and vintage *santos*. They're just so special to me."



SEAT FROM THE EAST. Oriental Folding Chair, P40,000, Noble Dream House

TIP
BRING COLOR INTO ANCESTRAL HOMES BY PAINTING WALLS IN VIVID HUES OR BY ADDING COLORFUL ARTWORK.

SHAPES AND COLORS. Framed Wall Art, P2,999, ID Furniture



OLD SCHOOL. Antique Small Table, P3,500, Kabisayaan Antiques

ROARING TWENTIES. Tiffany Table Lamp, P8,500, Herencia Antiques



REAL STEEL. Metal Wall Art, price available upon request, More Than a Chair

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GET THE LOOK OF AN UPDATED ANCESTRAL HOME



ODE TO THE TRIBESMAN.

Bul-ol Wooden Sculpture, P499.75 set of two, Kultura Filipino



TREASURE CHESTS

Decorative Boxes, P740 (part of set), Factory Sales



HANDPAINTED. Benjarong Bowls, price available upon request, L'Indochine

ORGANIC LOUNGE.

Leviathan Lounge Chair, price available upon request, Studio 10.10



TIP

IT'S OKAY TO MIX ANTIQUES WITH BRAND NEW PIECES LIKE THIS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY SHARE THE SAME MATERIAL AND FINISH.

{ COLOR PALETTE }



{INTERIOR TALK}

SOFTENING UP MODERN STYLES

Designer Nancy Riesco's home may be industrial and modern, and her furniture pieces decidedly sleek, but she manages to make her spaces look warm and playful. Here's how she does it.

1. Add soft furnishings. A casually placed throw, a furry shag rug, fluffy pillows, or a large swathe of soft drapes in lieu of stiff roller blinds all help soften the edge of ultra-modern homes.

2. Throw in bright colors. Going monochrome makes an already stiff modern interior look contrived and tired. Add a few touches of red, orange, fuchsia, or aqua in the form of accessories.

3. Mix in wooden pieces for warmth. Wood finishes in walnut or blonde wood work best to temper the clean lines and smooth, shiny surfaces of modern interiors.

4. Make it lived-in. Don't make modern homes look too pristine and perfect, unless you're gunning for the minimalist look. Leave your coffee cups out in the open, add lots of living plants, and let the dog in. —MAF

MODERN LOVE

photography **JANIS NICOLAY/PHOTOSHOT.COM**

words **NIKKI RENSHAW/PHOTOSHOT.COM**

styling **NANCY RIESCO**

A CANADIAN
INTERIOR DESIGNER
MIXES COLOR, ICONIC
MODERN PIECES,
AND FAB WALL
FINISHES TO CREATE
THE PERFECT
FAMILY HOME

The dining area was designed around the Scandinavian, mid-century-modern-style chairs that interior designer Nancy Riesco imported from Japan. She had coveted them for years and now had the perfect space for them. The light fixture over the Radius table by Bensen is a Zettelz light by Ingo Maurer. Handwritten notes by Nancy's kids and other scribbles make the lamp more interesting.





A hodgepodge of Nancy's curated artwork, all of them laid out in a random, casual way, accents the bare wall above the customized buffet cabinet in blonde wood. For similar cabinetry, have it customized at Open House, LRI Design Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Makati City.

"A HOME IS SUPPOSED TO BE FULL OF MEMORIES. I NEVER DESIGN JUST FOR IT TO LOOK GOOD. IT HAS TO MEAN SOMETHING."

Vancouver-based interior designer Nancy Riesco's trademark design aesthetic is a clever mix of light, color, and clean lines. The airy, modern spaces she creates have made her design company, Riesco & Lapres—which she co-owns with partner Rebecca Lapres—one of the most sought after design companies in Western Canada.

It was therefore surprising that her long-time home was a rather dark, century-old Tudor mansion. While the 1,500-sqm property has great architectural details, it needed an extensive renovation. Nancy had doubts about whether it would end up being her dream home. The house was also quite isolated, with no friends or neighbors nearby for her two children, Charlie, 13, and Gemma, 15, to play with.

Luckily, serendipity stepped in, and just as they were about to break ground on the renovation, a real estate agent approached them and offered them a very generous price for their old Tudor home. At the same time, Nancy's husband Jonathan, president of development company Reliance Properties, discovered a modern 700-sqm, three-bedroom property with a panoramic ocean view in a more family-friendly neighborhood.

"I wasn't entirely sure I wanted to move," says Nancy. But when she stepped into this house she knew it was meant to be. Designed by David Nicolay, of Evoke International Design, the wall of windows took her breath away. "It was the light that

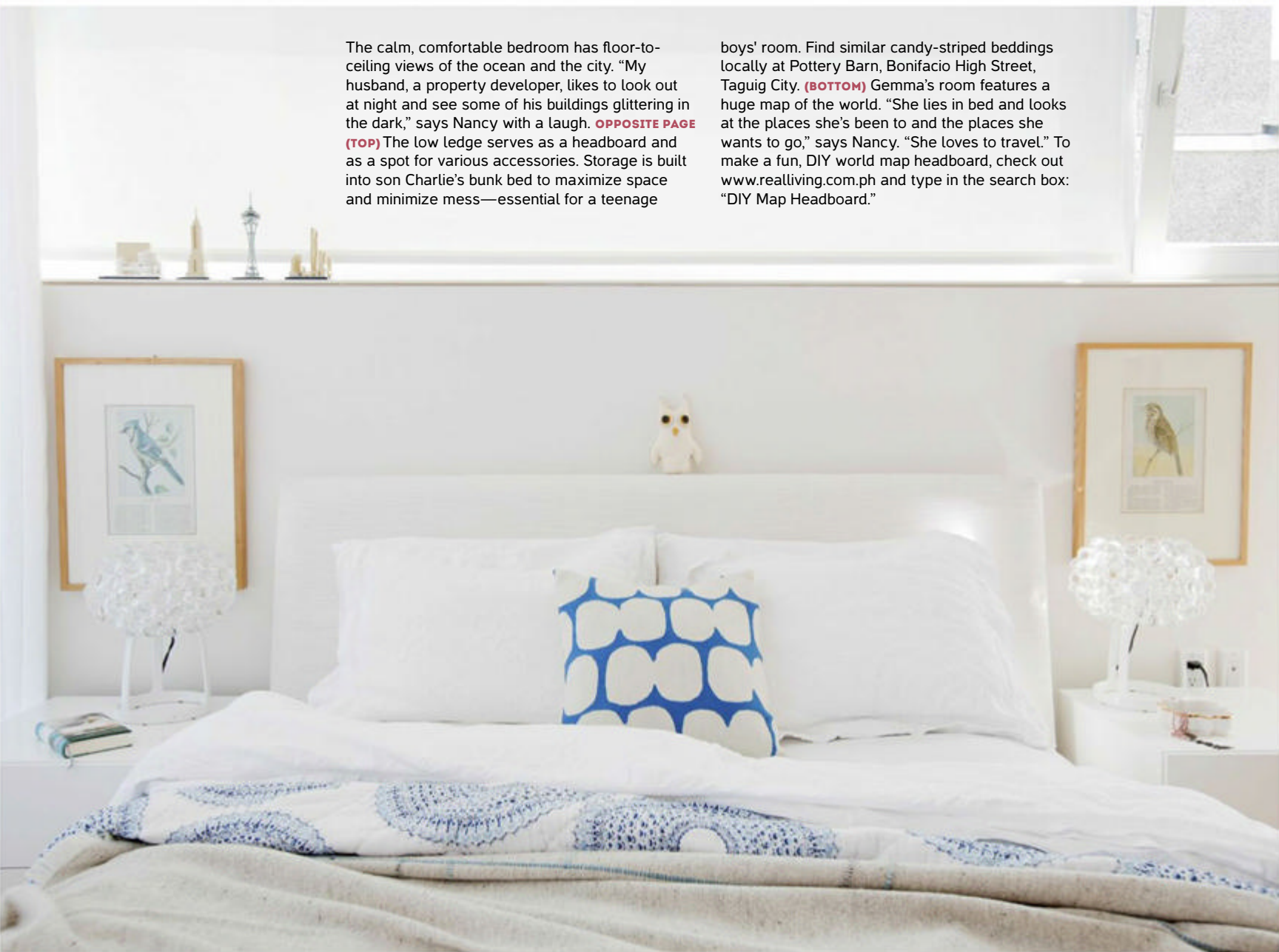


A low-slung B&B Italia sofa in the living room doesn't impede with the area's spectacular ocean view. Although the living room is mainly neutral, with its white walls and walnut-finish fireplace, soft furnishings add pops of color that can be changed as often as Nancy feels like it. You can get B&B Italia products locally at the Abitare showroom in Makati City, tel. (02) 892-1887.



The calm, comfortable bedroom has floor-to-ceiling views of the ocean and the city. "My husband, a property developer, likes to look out at night and see some of his buildings glittering in the dark," says Nancy with a laugh. **OPPOSITE PAGE (TOP)** The low ledge serves as a headboard and as a spot for various accessories. Storage is built into son Charlie's bunk bed to maximize space and minimize mess—essential for a teenage

boys' room. Find similar candy-striped beddings locally at Pottery Barn, Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City. **(BOTTOM)** Gemma's room features a huge map of the world. "She lies in bed and looks at the places she's been to and the places she wants to go," says Nancy. "She loves to travel." To make a fun, DIY world map headboard, check out www.realliving.com.ph and type in the search box: "DIY Map Headboard."



"IT WAS THE LIGHT THAT GOT TO ME. HAVING LIVED IN OLD HOUSES, I FOUND IT SO LIBERATING TO HAVE NOTHING THERE... JUST LOADS OF LIGHT."

FUN ART

Get artwork that's playful enough for kids and adults alike

TODDLE DOODLE.

This abstract work is sophisticated for a living room, and is sweet for a little girl's room. *Doodle Wall Art, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel*



LANDSCAPING. Its delicate landscape rendering adds a feminine touch for a boudoir. *Landscape Frame, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel, SM Mega Fashion Hall*



THE GANG'S HERE. This will look quirky and colorful on a plain white wall. *Wall Art, P4,999.75, Our Home, at major SM malls*



BAUHAUS BLISS. It has the perfect primary colors for a modern nursery. *This is the Life Collection Print, P4,500, Heima, www.heimastore.com*

got to me," she says. "Having lived in old houses, I found it so liberating to have nothing there. There were few walls, no nooks and crannies to design around, just loads of light."

The new home's open-plan ground floor—and a smaller footprint—has an unexpectedly positive effect on the family. "You are always together," Nancy explains. "If someone is in the kitchen, someone else is in the living room and they are connected. My kids are very happy here."

Costing a fraction of the price of their old home, Nancy was also free to indulge her deepest design fantasies in her new space. "This was the first time I've started from scratch," she says. "I'd always had that table from when we got married, or that chair to govern my design decisions."

With a completely blank canvas, Nancy invested in cherry-picked, high-quality pieces that she knew wouldn't compete with the floor-to-ceiling windows and ocean view. "The view is so incredible that I wanted it to be a feature of the home," she explains. A low B&B Italia sofa sits unobtrusively in front of the windows, while floating built-ins and streamlined cabinetry keep the space light and airy.

"I always knew the living room would be a sand-and-sea color combo to reflect the outside," Nancy muses. While the main furnishings are in light neutrals, cushions and soft furnishings in saturated oranges, reds, blues, and greens prevent the space from looking cold or unwelcoming. "I'm a color kook. I love the fact that I can change the color whenever I feel like it. It makes me very happy."

A high-gloss, apple green glass backsplash in the kitchen brings another welcoming pop of color to the center of the space, which contrasts perfectly with the sleek cabinetry. Blonde wood cabinets frame the dining area, where the highly coveted Radius table by Niels Bensen and streamlined dining chairs imported from Japan take pride of place. "I designed the dining area around these chairs," she laughs. "I'd loved them for years."

Above the table hangs the playful yet iconic Zettels light by Ingo Maurer. "I love the fact that while it comes with notes in different languages, it also has blank sheets where you can write your own messages," Nancy says. "There are notes from my kids and a drawing I did of our dog. It's very personal."

Personality has always played a huge part in Nancy's design ethos. "A home is supposed to be full of memories and I never design just to look good," she says. "It has to mean something."

This philosophy is made more obvious on the wall of artwork that runs the length of the space. She enlisted the help of an artist friend who helped her group the art pieces together, mixing her children's artwork with works by some of Canada's most prestigious artists.

This mix of homemade and high-end melds seamlessly throughout the space. The basement media room features both a Foscarini floor lamp and plaster sculptures made by Gemma. Meanwhile, junk store finds have equal pride of place as a Saarinen Womb chair or Bendsten bench in other areas of the house.

"Downsizing has given me the opportunity to display only what I really love. Some people may find this home too small for them, or have trouble downsizing, but for us, it forces us to do things the way you really should. Spend a lot of time with your family and get rid of a lot of stuff you don't need," Nancy says. **RL**



SEEING RED (AND WHITE) WHIMSICAL BIRD WALLPAPER IN THE ENTRY FOYER SHOWCASES DESIGNER NANCY RIESCO'S LOVE OF COLOR, WHICH IS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGHOUT HER HOME. YOU CAN GET A SIMILAR WALLPAPER STYLE FROM WALL CROWN, MC HOME DEPOT, FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY IN TAGUIG CITY. THE POWDER ROOM SPORTS STYLIZED *CHINOISERIE* WALLPAPER—SUMMER PALACE BY OSBORNE AND LITTLE. THE EXUBERANTLY PATTERNED PAPER ADDS DRAMA TO A VERY SMALL SPACE. YOU CAN FIND SIMILAR PATTERNED WALLPAPER FROM STUDIO ELEVEN.



Details



1



2



3



4

A red side table [find similar at Möbler, (02) 833-5590] holds an eclectic vignette composed of a geometric lamp, a tassel, and décor books. Find a similar lamp at Triboca Bay Living, LRI Design Plaza, Makati City.



1 TINY FRIENDS. Alexander Girard dolls add a whimsical but modern touch in Nancy's daughter's bedroom. Find similar at MOS Design, Bonifacio High Street.

2 CONNECT THE DOTS. Button-style coat hangers double as playful wall art.

3 WILD ONES. Nancy is rather laidback with her floral arrangements, as she simply fills old bottles with beautiful wildflowers.

4 POPPY BRIGHTS. As a designer, Nancy loves filling her tabletops with lovely vignettes, as seen in this poppy-print fabric and horsehair brush arrangement.



CHINOISERIE CHIC. Villandry Wallpaper, price available upon request, Studio Eleven



COPPER TWIG. Embrace Side Table by Pedro Sousa, P85,800, Dimensione



BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY. Lamp, price available upon request, Bo Concept



RESERVED SEATING. Lounge Chair, P5,495, Mandaue Foam

ROBIN LOVE. Framed Print, P360, Mandaue Foam



POUF, IT'S GONE! Black Pouf, P6,499.75, ARO Curtains



GET THE LOOK OF A PLAYFUL, MODERN HOME

TIP
ARTFUL KNOBS CAN BE USED ON WALLS THAT LACK SHELVING—PLUS, THEY'RE DECORATIVE ON THEIR OWN!



CALVIN AND KNOBS. Wall Hangers, price available upon request, Bo Concept

WHERE TO BUY:

BO CONCEPT

B2 BONIFACIO HIGH STREET,
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY,
TAGUIG CITY
TEL. (02) 856-2748
WWW.BOCONCEPT.COM

CRATE & BARREL

4/L SM MEGA FASHION HALL,
SM MEGAMALL,
MANDALUYONG CITY
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
CRATEANDBARRELPHILIPPINES

DIMENSIONE

B2 BONIFACIO HIGH STREET,
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY,
TAGUIG CITY
TEL. (02) 856-2748S
WWW.DIMENSIONE.COM.PH

MANDAUE FOAM

489 SHAW BLVD.,
MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL. (02) 234-1112
WWW.MANDAUEFOAM.PH

STUDIO ELEVEN

MG BUILDING, 150 AMORSOLO
STREET, LEGASPI VILLAGE,
MAKATI CITY
TEL. (02) 894-1243; 894-1244.
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
STUDIO11FABRICS



TIP
ADD QUIRK TO A CLASSIC SOFA LIKE THIS BY USING COLORFUL PATTERNED THROW PILLOWS.

CLASS OF ITS OWN.

Three seater Sofa, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel

{ COLOR PALETTE }



brilliant blue



bronze beauty



dazzling red



lonesome dove



rockin' robin

BIG ON DETAIL

GENEROUS SPACE,
BOLD PIECES,
AND EXUBERANT
COLORS MAKE A
FANTASY HOME
COME TO LIFE IN
PORTUGAL



photography **NICOLAS LEMMONIER/REDCOVER**
words **REBECCA WINWARD/REDCOVER**

By replacing almost the whole of the pool-facing wall with sliding glass doors, the flow between indoors and outdoors becomes seamless, and light comes flooding in to the house.



Designer Vera Cristo's signature style includes flashes of glorious color, such as these glass candelabra and jewel-colored upholstery, against a very neutral background of bare, polished concrete. You can find similar candelabra from Dimensione at Bonifacio High Street, and similar classical-lined furniture from Home Matters at 4/L Mega Fashion Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.



Many say that the main thing to consider when buying a property is “location, location, location,” and this is an adage that the owners of this villa in the charming seaside town of Cascais, Portugal took to heart. Perched on a pine-covered hill overlooking an azure-blue sea, the house enjoys the most wonderful views—but crucially, it is not overlooked itself. It enjoys privacy that its owners treasure most dearly.

When the owners first bought this 1950s house, it was far from the stylish abode you see today. With a very different approach to architecture, this bygone age of mid-century modern design spawned a type of house not very compatible with this century’s aesthetic preferences and lifestyles.

“There weren’t such things as efficient central heating or air conditioning,” designer Vera Cristo explains of the house’s former state. “So people tried to protect themselves from the elements by building houses with thick walls and small windows.” But of course, in such a beautiful location, and with the contemporary taste for light and space, such proportions were incompatible with a modern luxury dwelling. So along with architect Luís Bigotte, Vera’s first task was to remodel the building itself.

{INTERIOR TALK}

A PLAY ON PROPORTION

Most homeowners play it safe, but adding an oversized furniture piece or object to the room may just be the wildcard décor that you need. Homeowner and doctor Rommel Caballes loves going against the grain by adding gigantic pieces to his tiny condo. “I like big things, massive things. And then *sabi nila*, there’s an illusion that if you have big things, it looks like you have a big house,” he explains. Here’s how to think big.

- 1. Big artwork and sculpture work best.** No one is going to complain about having a massive painting or sculpture in your room, because after all, it’s art. Also, the sheer size would serve as a focal point in an under-decorated room.
- 2. Offset big and massive with**

long and narrow. If you have massive armchairs, offset the size with a slim-lined coffee table, or get one that’s transparent. Or, add a pair of those big armchairs in a narrow corridor to trick the eye into thinking the space is grander than it seems.

3. For beginners, try a large plant. If you don’t want to go too bold, you can’t go wrong with large indoor plants, such as a potted baobab, a giant fern, or a traveler’s palm positioned behind a sofa, in a corner, or against the wall.

4. Be tongue-in-cheek. Treat the placement of your pieces nonchalantly, and you can get away with anything. Consider it your art installation—the oversized items will end up being conversational pieces for guests!

OLD AND NEW SIT SIDE BY SIDE IN THESE ECLECTIC INTERIORS

REAL HOMES



The cushions on the cabana tie in the decoration of the pool area to that of the living room, giving it a coherent feel.



In the master bedroom, the headboard/wall has been expanded up to the ceiling, forming a nifty floor-to-ceiling partition between the sleeping zone and the library area. You can find Thai silk cushions and throws like these at Sifra Interiors and Objects at Glorietta 4, Makati City.

BY PLAYING WITH SCALE AND SPACE, DESIGNER VERA CRISTO HAS CREATED A STUNNING COUNTRY RETREAT TO ESCAPE THE STRESSES OF CITY LIFE

JEWEL IN THE PALACE

These sumptuously colored pieces are not meant to be hidden

CAST IN AMBER.

Topaz tones are delicate yet sophisticated. Amber Vase, price available upon request, A Touch of Elegance, Glorietta, Makati City



SAPPHIRE STARS. Clear blue glasses are always festive. Glassware, prices available upon request, H&M Home, Robinsons Magnolia

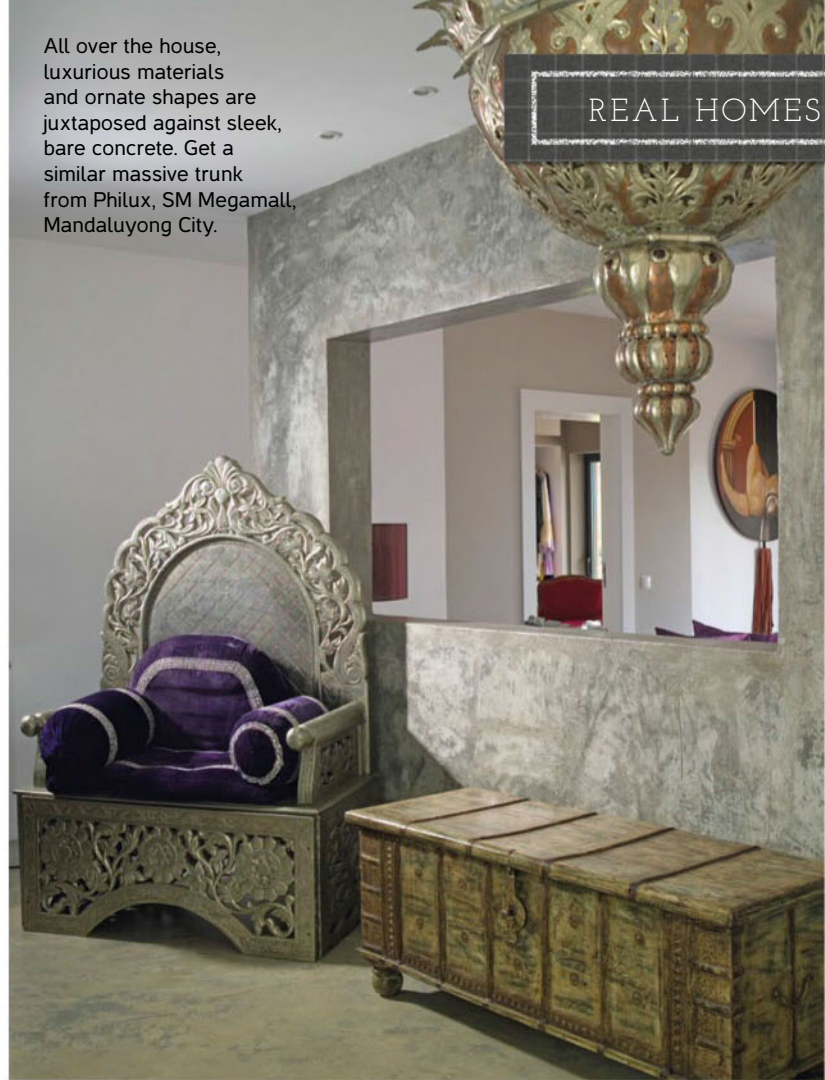


EMERALD STEPS.

If you're not wearing these, leave them by your entry foyer for a shot of color. Kartell Shoes, price available upon request, Dexterton, Greenbelt 5



RUBY RED. Add this to accent an all-wood furniture set. Red Table, find similar at True Value, www.truevalue.com.ph



All over the house, luxurious materials and ornate shapes are juxtaposed against sleek, bare concrete. Get a similar massive trunk from Philux, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

REAL HOMES

Knowing the couple and their two children well, Vera was given free rein on the project. Apart from adding a gym and ensuring that every member of the family—including housekeeping and any guests—has their own bathroom and walk-in closet, there was just one very specific request that Vera had to contend with, and that was to source a very specific shade of tile for the swimming pool. “And boy, did we all have to work hard to find that particular blue!” she laughs.

Getting her ideas from homes found in the popular vacation spot The Hamptons, Vera focused on three aspects in her design: impressive dimensions, an emphasis on privacy, and a balanced relationship between inside and out. By rethinking the layout—indeed, as the renovation works started, only the external walls remained standing—and replacing formerly solid walls with glass sliding doors, the internal space of the house was opened up, creating a more fluid, expansive feel and relating the interiors more closely to the natural world around the house.

“In the middle of the last century, life wasn’t so busy or stressful as it is today, so people weren’t quite so interested in living in harmony with nature,” Vera explains. “The fact that the magnificent views were there at all probably wasn’t even appreciated back then. I wanted to create a sense of continuity between the house and its surroundings.” To see how much the villa has changed, you need only glance across at the neighboring properties from one of the two terraces, one attached to the main bedroom, and the other by the poolside deck.

After the major renovation works were finished, Vera joined forces with the family to do the decorating. As she was very good friends with the owner, the interiors came together in a



With a defined Eastern minimalist aesthetic—albeit one tinged with exotic luxury—the master ensuite toilet and bath provides the couple with the restful sanctuary they were seeking. In contrast with the rest of the house’s bright colors, the bathroom has a discreet eastern sensibility with sleek bathroom fixtures and subdued colors.

Vera used more color in the children's room than in other parts of the house. Here, in the daughter's ensuite room, vibrant orange and hot pink plus other jewel tones create a riotous effect, simultaneously clashing and looking just right.

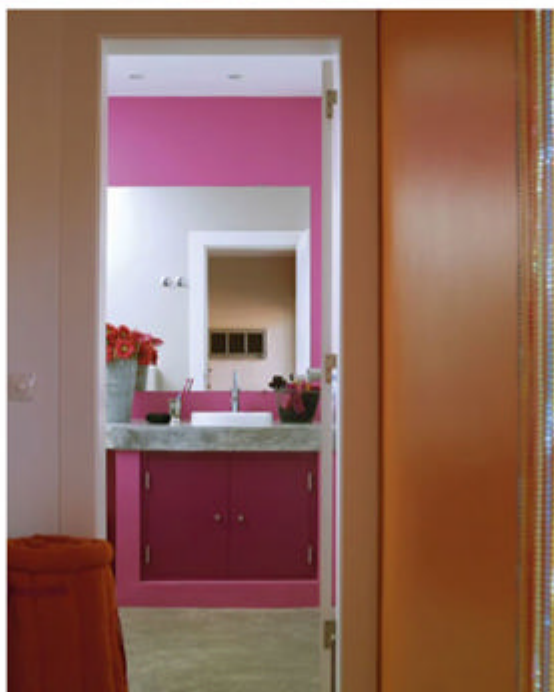


very organic fashion, much more as the furnishing of a personal home develops than the usual client/designer relationship that might occur. Sometimes, they might shop together for furniture and decorative pieces, while on other occasions the designer might find a stunning piece, and send the other a text message—complete with picture—to elicit an opinion. Several pieces made their way to the house by this means, from locations around the world, while others simply came from the family's main residence.

Working with a very neutral background in large spaces, Vera played with color, scale, and texture. "There were three gigantic fireplaces, so we took this oversized theme and applied it to the décor, which is why there's an enormous carved head in the living room, as well as man-sized candelabras," Vera explains. "It was a great way to achieve a sense of grandeur in such a large, airy space while still maintaining something of a minimalist approach." Old and new sit side by side in these eclectic interiors, and Vera's love of multi-functional pieces shines through. "I like features that can serve more than one purpose," she says. "Such as the serving hatch, which also doubles as a breakfast bar."

For such an ambitious project, it took a relatively short time to complete—just five months passed, and this once-simple structure had been transformed into a luxurious family home. And the luxury there is evident not only in the décor but in the house's location itself as well. "The huge, double-glazed windows allow the family to enjoy living in a manner more integrated into the natural environment, without compromising the comforts of home," says Vera. "To live in the house now is to breathe in the sea air and the scent of the pine forest, to be aware of the changing shapes of the clouds in the sky and their reflection in the pool, and to revel in the sense of place both night and day." **RL**

WORKING
WITH A
NEUTRAL
BACKGROUND
IN LARGE
SPACES, VERA
PLAYED WITH
COLOR, SCALE,
AND TEXTURE



ARM CANDY. Blue Green Armchair, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel

MOSSY STONE. Green Floor Tile, P45, Ortigas Home Depot

MOSTLY MOSAIC. Pendant Lantern, find similar at Jo-Liza Arts and Antiques

TIP
ELEVATE A DINING TABLE WITH GROUPED CANDLEHOLDERS. MIX UP DIFFERENT MATERIALS AND COLORS FOR ADDED INTEREST.

GREEN & GOLD. Candelsticks P1,350 (green), P2,800/ pair (brass), Rustan's Department Store

EMERALD CITY. Green Glass, P2,750, Rustan's Department Store

WINNER DINNER. Dinner Plate, P349.75, Robinsons Department Store

AQUA AMBIANCE. Ceramic Ottoman, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel

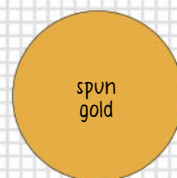
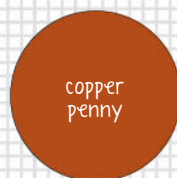
ORIENTAL APPEAL. Cabinet, P24,950, Dimensione

BLACK IS BACK. Pedestal, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel

A BEAUTIFUL MESS. Shag Rug, price available upon request, Alto Design

TIP
THROW IN A FEW NEUTRAL PIECES TO TEMPER A RICHLY COLORED BOHEMIAN INTERIOR.

{ COLOR PALETTE }



GET THE LOOK OF AN EXOTIC, COLORFUL HOME

WHERE TO BUY:

ALTO DESIGN
UNIT 214 LRI DESIGN PLAZA,
210 N. GARCIA ST.,
MAKATI CITY
TEL. (02) 403-0087

CRATE & BARREL
4/L SM MEGA FASHION HALL,
SM MEGAMALL,
MANDALUYONG CITY

DIMENSIONE
B2 BONIFACIO HIGH STREET,
BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY,
TAGUIG CITY
TEL. (02) 856-27485
WWW.DIMENSIONE.COM.PH

JO-LIZA ARTS & ANTIQUES
664 J. ABAD SANTOS ST.,
SAN JUAN CITY

ORTIGAS HOME DEPOT
JULIA VARGAS AVE. COR.
MERALCO AVE, PASIG CITY
TEL. (02) 683-0823

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AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY

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FINISHING TOUCHES

Anika Convertible Table as
a four-seater Dining Table



Anika Convertible Table
as a Console Table



All About Function

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realliving Notebook

Bathroom myths debunked!

Can you put wallpaper in the bathroom? How about artwork? And which is better, a shower or a tub? We answer all of these tricky T&B questions here, and more!



WORDS & PRODUCTION KATHERINE LOPEZ & PAULA DE GUZMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY ALEXANDRA ROWLEY/GETTY IMAGES

PHOTOGRAPHY KURT ALVAREZ/ACME VISUAL PRODUCTIONS

March 2015

RLNotebookCalendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1 	2	3 WATERCOLOR BIRDS, P349.75, ALL HOME	4	5 WAFFLE TOWELS, P260 EACH, AC + 632 	6	7
8	9	10 WORLDBEX 2015 World Trade Center, Pasay City www.worldbex.com	11	12 MANILA F.A.M.E. SMX Convention Center, Pasay City www.manilafame.com MAISON ET OBJET ASIA Marina Bay Sands Exposition Center Singapore www.maison-objet.com/asia	13 PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE SHOW SMX Convention Center, Pasay City www.pifs.ph	14
15 PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL FURNITURE SHOW SMX Convention Center, Pasay City www.pifs.ph	16 MANILA F.A.M.E. SMX Convention Center, Pasay City	17 STRIPED CATCHALL, P349.75, ALL HOME 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 WATER PHILIPPINES EXPO 2015 SMX Convention Center, Pasay City	26	27	28
29 STRIPED TOWELS, FIND SIMILAR AT SM HOME 	30	31	1	2	3	4 WHITE SOAP DISH, P479.75, ALL HOME 

Artwork in the bathroom: yay or nay?

THE ANSWER IS YAY! YOU CAN SPRUCE UP YOUR T&B EASILY WITH WALL DÉCOR. JUST REMEMBER THESE DESIGNER TIPS.

NIX THE ÜBER VALUABLE PIECES.

Wall décor in your bathroom can add personality. But because moisture can damage some artwork, you can't just hang any piece of art. Interior designer Kristine Neri-Magturo of home store Urban Abode advises against displaying art of considerable value in the bathroom "due to potential moisture damage."

GO FOR BOLD COLOR AND PRINTS.

Watercolor, poster color, and exposed oil paintings are also not recommended in the bathroom. "However, framed prints or lithographs under glass can add a classy, luxe vibe," Kristine says.

KEEP IT AWAY FROM DIRECT

WATER SOURCES. When decorating with framed wall décor, interior designer Pauline La'O recommends hanging it on a wall that's away from a direct source of water. "Best if it is far away from the lavatory and the shower area," she says.

CHOOSE PERSONAL WORKS FOR

THIS INTIMATE SPACE. Kristine adds, "Consider choosing artwork that is relevant and enjoyed by the ones who will be using each bathroom the most. It can create a more relatable ambiance while showing different themes or personalities in each bathroom, adding charm to the aesthetic narrative of the home."



1. Hummingbird Wall Art, P349.75; 2. Paris Silhouette, P349.75, All Home 3. White Flowers, P249.75; 4. Paris Doodle, P349.75, All Home 5. Umbra Dandelions Wall Décor, P849/set of nine, All Home 6. Pink Flowers, find similar at SM Home 7. Umbra Climbers Wall Décor, P849/set of six, All Home 8. Club Zen, P499.75, All Home



Plants in the bathroom: yay or nay?

YAY! ADD SOME GREENS (REAL OR FAUX) TO CREATE YOUR VERY OWN PRIVATE EDEN. ADDING PLANTS CAN CREATE A SANCTUARY OUT OF ANY SPACE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU STYLE THEM RIGHT.



PLAY WITH TEXTURES AND HEIGHTS. You can put small potted plants on shelves or hang them from the ceiling. "Just make sure the plants get ample natural sunlight," says Pauline.

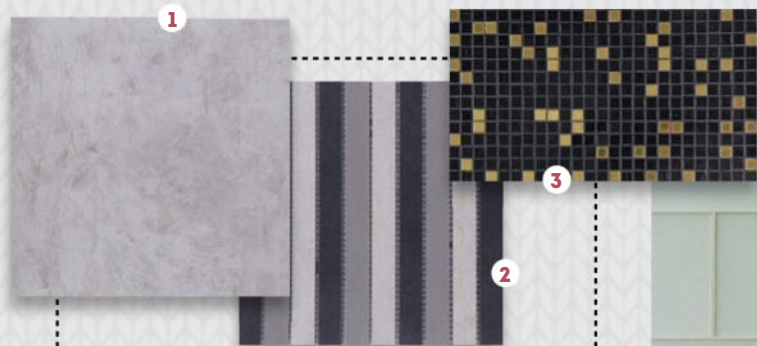
POT IT. Kristine also recommends putting your plants on the wall or in pots on the floor in order to free up precious countertop space.

PICK THE RIGHT PLANT. Meanwhile, home decorating website Apartment Therapy (www.apartmenttherapy.com) recommends spider plant and snake plant for bathrooms with low amount of light, as these plants are low-maintenance.

WHEN IN DOUBT, GO FOR FAUX. Still don't know if your plant can thrive in your bathroom, especially if you don't have a window or ventilation? Use faux plants instead. You can get realistic-looking faux plants from Rustan's Flower Shop (Ayala Center Makati and Shangri-la Plaza) and Designer Blooms (Eastwood City Mall).

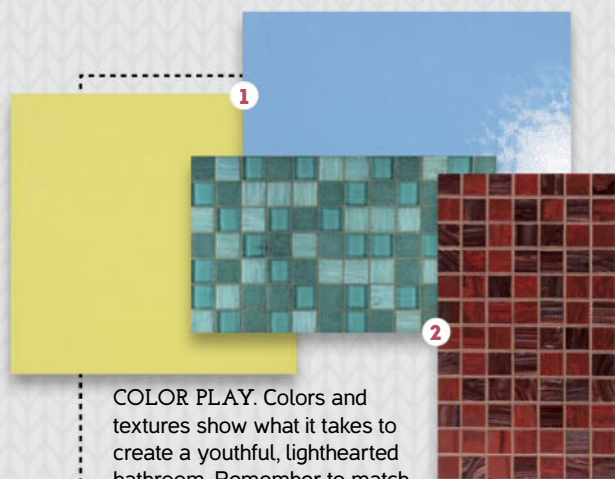


1. Faux Plants, P279.75, SM Home
2. Snake Plant in Orange Pot, P700, All Home
3. Plant in Orange Pot, P240, All Home
4. Miura Plant in Green Pot, P350, All Home
5. Miura Plant in Gray Pot, P240, All Home
6. Faux Indoor Plant in Black Pot, price available upon request, Crate & Barrel
7. Faux Plant with Green and Red Leaves, P249.75, SM Home



ACHROMATIC SOPHISTICATE. Textured grays, metallic mosaic, and multi-tone achromatic colors are perfect for a masculine bathroom, or as a bolder, more sophisticated choice for the neutral palette-loving homeowners.

1. 60x60 Niro Tile, P373.75, Wilcon Depot **2.** Niro Granite, price upon request, All Home **3.** Bisazza Prince Black, P5,167.50/sheet, Wilcon Depot



COLOR PLAY. Colors and textures show what it takes to create a youthful, lighthearted bathroom. Remember to match the color of your tiles to tile grout of similar color for a seamless look.

1. Bisazza Federica/sheet, P1,585.55, Wilcon Depot;
2. Bisazza Nina/sheet, P1,499.85, Wilcon Depot
3. Blue Tile with Pattern, P22.25, All Home
4. Yellow Tile, P16.55, All Home



STAYING GROUNDED. There are no overpowering colors with this delicate selection of tiles. An earth goddess wannabe would approve of this tasteful, nature-inspired ensemble.

1. Wood Grain Tile, P175, All Home
2. 30x30 Green Ceramic Tile, 32.75, All Home **3.** Niro Granite, price available upon request, All Home



Multi-colored tiles in the bathroom: yay or nay?

A DEFINITE YAY! ALL-WHITE OR ALL-BLACK BATHROOMS MAY LOOK SLICK, BUT USING A MIX OF DIFFERENTLY COLORED AND SHAPED TILES CAN CREATE A SOPHISTICATED AND INTERESTING T&B.

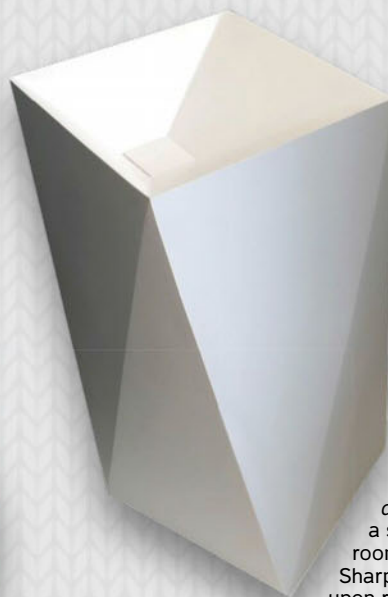


PERFECT GEOMETRY. Get your Art Deco fix with this exquisite selection of shapes and sizes for your bathroom. The geometric shapes lend visual interest to a space.

1. 40x40 Tile, P72, All Home
2. Cifre 25cm x 40cm Yellow Antique Tile, P138.60, Wilcon Depot
3. Hexagonal Niro Granite Tile, price available upon request, All Home



GOLDEN TOUCH. With its design derived from a classic inspiration, this sink will look great in a neutral bathroom. Glass Design Cocoon, price available upon request



SHARP ANGLES. Featuring eight triangular surfaces, this pedestal sink is a perfect *pièce de résistance* in a small powder room. Art Ceram Sharp, price available upon request



MURANO MEDLEY. Made of Murano glass from Italy, this exquisite washbasin sports a millefiori design inspired by the colorful marine world. Glass Design Laguna Murrine, price available upon request



BEAUTIFUL BARCHETTA. Made of silicone, this piece does not disappoint with its translucent basin in a popping red hue. Glass Design Barchetta, price available upon request



HOT INDUSTRIAL. Metal takes on a different form in this sleek, circular washbasin. This will look great in minimalist bathrooms with its masculine appeal. Glass Design Rho Metal, price available upon request

HOLE IN ONE. With a curved, avant-garde design, this lavatory is sculptural addition to a small bathroom. Art Ceram Hall, price available upon request



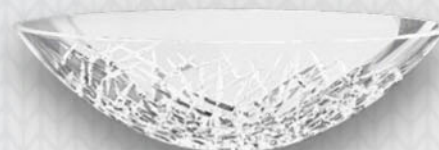
RED BLOOM. Everything about this lavatory is arresting. Made of a versatile material called Pert, its color, shape, and material makes it a visual delight. Glass Design Flower, price available upon request



ALL THAT JAZZ. The metallic, cabriole legs of this piece pay homage to traditional forms while keeping up with the times. Art Ceram Jazz, price available upon request



CALM WATERS. Shaped like a gondola, this pristine white lavatory will look doubly stunning when partnered against a dark countertop. Art Ceram Back, price available upon request



ICE PICK. This isn't your usual cookie-cutter sink, as this number was created from pure crystal, boasting beveled stone that's truly a work of art. Glass Design Ice Oval, price available upon request

WHERE TO BUY

DEXTERTON
• 3/L GREENBELT 5, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY
MOBILE 0917 594 2549
• 57 SGT. E. RIVERA ST., QUEZON CITY,
TEL (02)- 362-1111, 361-6006
FAX (02) 362-0548
MOBILE 0917-858-1838/ 0917-858-5838

Bathroom problems solved!

DESIGNERS DISH OUT THEIR TWO CENTS ON WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO TO YOUR LOO

1. Can I put wallpaper in the bathroom?

"Use of wallpapers or other wall coverings, aside from paint and tiles, are not recommended. It would just result to moulds, bubbles, and peeling," says interior designer Pauline La'O. If you must use wallpaper, interior designer Kristine Neri-Magturo recommends coating it with a special decorator's varnish to help seal the wallpaper. "Also, make sure that the bathroom is well ventilated," Kristine adds.

2. Which is better: shower enclosures or shower curtains?

"Shower enclosures because they contain water better. Also, they can add a luxe feel to the home. But, if budget and space don't allow for an enclosure, then curtains can certainly offer a lot of great personal, creative expression in ways that enclosures usually cannot," says Kristine.

3. My bathroom tiles are slippery, but I can't afford to retile? What should I do?

"Non-slip shower and bath mats are functional, and they come in different designs—transparent, solid color, floral, and others. Non-

slip floor tape adhesives also might be an option, like the kind found around swimming pools," Kristine suggests. Should you decide to retile in the future, Pauline recommends installing matte, unglazed, or "rustic" floor tiles, as these are not slippery.

4. Which makes for a good bath: bath tubs or showers?

"This is really personal preference. Showers use less water than baths, are easier on the water bill, and save time. But then again, bathing in a tub with bath salts and vanilla-scented candles is really a great way to relax and rejuvenate at home," says Kristine.

5. We use *balde* and *tabo*, but these can be such eyesores. What can we do?

"Choosing colors that are more on the neutral tones such as white or beige have always been a safe default," says Kristine. Pauline adds, "*Balde* at *tabo* are a staple in every Filipino bathroom. Just make sure that these are clean and well-maintained." Another option if you want to go *tabo*-less: install a bidet spray next to your water closet.



1

BATHROOM COMPANY

Make your bathroom more stylish and functional with these picks

1. SQUEEZE IT IN. Keep clutter at bay even in small bathrooms and tight spaces with this ladder-type hamper. Lotus Leaning Bath Shelf, P2,950, Make Room & More

2. METAL TOUCH. Complement an industrial-style bathroom with matte, metal accessories like this soap dish. Soap Dish, P579.75, All Home

3. SLEEK AND SHINY. Add a modern feel to your bathroom with a perfectly polished faucet like this. Neco Water Faucet, P485, All Home

4. ALL IN. Organize your toiletries with this two-tiered, wall-mounted shower caddy. Shower Caddy, P2,099.75, All Home

5. BEAUTY IN A BOX. This catchall is perfect for a teenage girl to corral her bathroom accoutrements in Catchall, P249.75, All Home

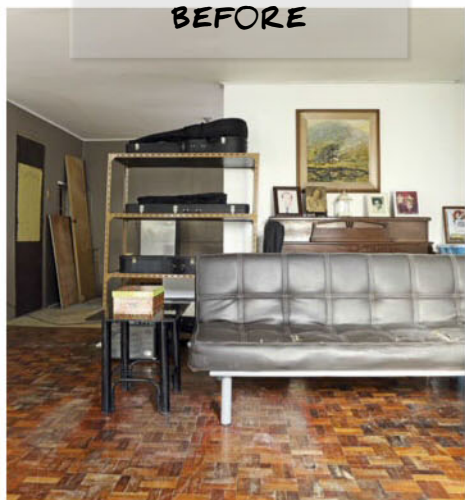


AFTER



The once dark living and dining areas now look airy and inviting. The blue-and-gray color scheme (thanks to paints from Handyman) makes for a clean palette that's far from being clinical. The Morfosis Design team, together with Wilkonstruct, refurbished the existing furniture pieces with new upholstery and paint.

BEFORE



WHEN ARLENE SAMSON lost her mom to cancer, she and her husband Armand were left with a home that was bare and dull. But Arlene was committed to fixing it up in memory of her mom—she wanted to transform it into a space that is lively and happy. “*Gusto ko kasi maaliwalas, tapos modern na Shabby Chic. Feeling ko kasi itong bahay namin naging stock room, nakakalat lahat!*” Arlene explains.

Real Living sought the help of Misty Floro and Pai Edles, the designer duo behind Morfosis Design. When they first saw Arlene’s living area, they immediately knew what needed to be done. “Something to make the space livelier, *kasi* it looked really sparse and plain. So it was just a matter of having the right layout,” says Misty.

Taking off from Arlene’s style preference, the duo, together with their go-to contractor Wilkonstruct, drafted a modern take on

BEFORE



Shabby Chic. “Arlene liked everything!” Pai says of the homeowner’s reaction when they first presented the design to her.

A lot of repainting was done. The once staid, white walls are now more visually appealing in light blue and warm gray, thanks to Nippon Paint from Handyman. Old furniture pieces, like the mid-century dining table and Victorian-style seats, were brought back from the *bodega* and were updated with new upholstery (courtesy of LCS Upholstery) and fresh coats of paint. The designers also added more texture and visual interest to the living area: triangular shelves customized by contractor Wilkonstruct were placed under the stairs and on one wall for a very unique and eye-catching storage system. Meanwhile, wood-textured panels in metallic silver from Sibu make the wall by the staircase a definite eye candy.

Soft furnishings, like pillows and curtains from Robinsons Department Store, temper the strong, geometric accents. Arlene’s existing sofas were retained, but new slipcovers for the cushions were made to match the new color palette of the space. Accessories like an area rug, vases, votive candleholders, and framed prints, also from Robinsons Department Store, complete the living area setup. The space under the stairs, which used to sport only a beat-up console table that was barely used, was transformed into a reading nook complete with a customized chest that doubles as a seating piece. A sleek floor lamp from Handyman provides ample lighting.

GOOD VIBES

SAD MEMORIES ARE REPLACED
BY HAPPY ONES IN A
FORMERLY DRAB SPACE
THAT IS TRANSFORMED
INTO AN INVITING
HOME

AFTER

The play on texture and geometry is clearly evident in this corner of the living area: the wood-textured laminate in metallic silver from Sibü makes a striking contrast against the customized wooden geometric shelf.



interiors **MORFOSIS DESIGN**
photography **KURT ALVAREZ/ACME VISUAL PRODUCTIONS**
styling **TALA SINGSON**
words **SUNSHINE SELGA FUNA**



AFTER

LEFT The TV rack from Handyman and the canvas bins from Robinsons Department Store make this part of the living area look organized. Accessories from Robinsons spruce up the otherwise plain entertainment nook.

BELOW An old balustrade was brought back to life with a fresh coat of white paint. Misty and Pai then repurposed it as a wall accent in the dining area. Potted faux plants from Handyman were also added to make the space more inviting.



DESIGNERS PAI EDLES AND MISTY FLORO SHARE A FEW TRICKS ON HOW TO MAKE A BIG IMPACT IN A SMALL SPACE



★ **PLAY WITH LINES.** "Right now, we're into geometric lines. They give visual interest to a space. And the paint, instead of doing it in a straight line, we did it in diagonal cut. It echoes the lines of the furniture we had made," says Misty of the wall shared by the dining and living areas.

★ **REUSE, REPAIR, REPAINT.** "We refinshed all the coffee tables—those are actually side tables. We cut the legs and painted half of them in white so they'd still be in theme. Also in the dining—all of those are refurbished," Pai elaborates.

★ **BRING IN GREENS.** Whether real or faux, plants instantly refresh any space. Pai and Misty peppered Arlene's home with greens in varying sizes.



The Morfosis team thought of using Arlene's mom's old sewing machine as a console that holds photos and other mementos of Arlene's parents. Above it is another set of geometric shelves that add more flair to the space.



AFTER

Armand's collection of guitars were casually piled on a rack near the dining area. Now, they make for a really interesting wall décor while not in use.



BEFORE

"It was fun. We were able to execute what we really wanted. And Arlene was really open and super nice and accommodating," describes Misty of their first time to do a *Real Living* makeover. As for Arlene, she can't help but gush. In fact, she was so happy with how the makeover turned out that she threw a simple after-lunch party on the day of the photo shoot. Relatives and family friends were invited, and were also the first to see Arlene's "new" place. Even her husband, who works in Singapore, didn't miss out. "Every night, *sinesend ko yung photos ng progress. Tuwang-tuwa siya, gusto nang umuwi!*" the homeowner beams.

REAL MAKEOVER

ABOUT THE DESIGNERS



MISTY FLORO and **PAI EYLES** are at the helm of Morfosis Design (www.morfosisdesign.ph). The team has already done a number of residential and commercial interior design projects, as well as styling and branding stints.



ARLENE SAMSON, PICTURED HERE WITH NIECE JESSICA, SHARES THIS SPACE WITH HER HUSBAND ARMAND, WHO WORKS IN SINGAPORE. THE COUPLE SHARES THE SAME LOVE FOR MUSIC, WITH THE BEATLES, BLUR, AND ERASERHEADS AS THEIR FAVORITE BANDS.

Ready for your own makeover? Contact Morfosis Design and check out their website at www.morfosis.ph.

Robinsons
Department Store

HANDYMAN
Do it Best

WILKONSTRUCT

MORFOSIS

SIBU
DESIGN

how much it costs

LABOR AND OTHER MATERIALS

Labor and assorted construction materials
P30,000*

FROM HANDYMAN

Paint, fixtures, and other construction materials
P30,000

FROM ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE

Pillows and accessories
P30,000

FROM WILKONSTRUCT

Repainting, installation, and general labor
P12,800

FROM SIBU

Wall laminate
P23,000

Grand Total
P125,800

*DESIGNERS' FEE NOT INCLUDED



REAL ESTATE LISTING

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THESE DEVELOPMENTS BOAST EXTRAS LIKE AMAZING AMENITIES THAT MAKE CONDO LIVING A FINE EXPERIENCE

THE
RISE



ARTHALAND

ARYA RESIDENCES

Boutique development Arya Residences, tagged as the most sustainable residential building in the country, successfully merges green design and luxury. Outdoor and indoor amenities are topnotch with The Terrace and The Plaza, plus various water features such as a 25-m lap pool, a leisure pool, a children's pool, and a play area. Other refreshing add-ons are a lounge-pocket garden and landscaped lawns.

TYPE: **HIGH-RISE CONDO**

LOCATION: **26TH ST., BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY, TAGUIG CITY**

PRICE RANGE: **PRICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

CONTACT DETAILS: **ARTHALAND PRIMARIES**

URL: **WWW.ARTHALAND.COM**

CENTURY PROPERTIES

ACQUA IGUAZU

The concrete jungle meets its match with Century Properties' exotic offering in Mandaluyong—Acqua Iguazu. The development boasts The Cielo, a vibrant, club-meets-resort type of space equipped with a swimming pool, bar, dining area, function rooms, an indoor and outdoor library, a movie room, and more—exclusively for the residents. You also get to enjoy fantastic views of Makati City from an unparalleled vantage point.

TYPE: **HIGH-RISE, THEMED CONDO**

LOCATION: **ESTRELLA-PANTALEON BRIDGE, MANDALUYONG CITY**

PRICE RANGE: **1-BR UNIT STARTS AT P6.9M, 2-BR UNIT STARTS AT P14.2M**

CONTACT DETAILS: **CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP, INC.; TEL. (02) 793-5500; FAX (02) 811-5588**

URL: **WWW.ACQUA-IGUAZU.COM/IGUAZU.HTML**

CENTURY SPIRES

When renowned architect and visionary Daniel Libeskind designs your building and Armani/Casa fixes its interiors, you have nothing more to ask for. That's exactly what you'll get at Century Spires by Century Properties. An added plus is that it is right

photography DAIRY DARILAG & PAOLO FELICIANO words PAULA DE GUZMAN

next to the hip Century City Mall and the hot nightspot 71 Gramercy.

TYPE: **HIGH-RISE MIXED-USED RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL CONDO**

LOCATION: **KALAYAAN AVE., MAKATI CITY**

PRICE RANGE: **PRICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

CONTACT DETAILS: **CENTURY PROPERTIES INC.**

URL: **WWW.CENTURYSPIRE.COM**

ORTIGAS AND COMPANY

IMPERIUM AT CAPITOL COMMONS

Imperium has a high-performance fitness facility, advanced building technology like trapezoidal canted windows, and top-notch amenities such as infinity edge pool, an outdoor play area, and recreation rooms. Residents also get to enjoy direct access to Pasig's hottest commercial hub Capitol Commons, which is teeming with cool restaurants like The Topsy Pig and Nomama, and other establishments like Unimart and Estancia Mall.

TYPE: **HIGH-RISE CONDO**

LOCATION: **CAPITOL COMMONS, SHAW BLVD., PASIG CITY**

PRICE RANGE: **STARTS AT P16M TO P37M**

CONTACT DETAILS: **ORTIGAS AND COMPANY,**

TEL. (02) 401-3332

URL: **WWW.THEIMPERIUM.PH**

CENTURY
SPIRES



ROCKWELL PRIMARIES

53 BENITEZ

With Rockwell Primaries' 53 Benitez, you get privacy, security, and accessibility in a prime location—a favorable choice for discerning families. Generous cuts, spacious hallways, complete amenities like private function spaces, pools, and private bridgeways won't leave you wanting for more.

TYPE: **LOW-RISE CONDO**

LOCATION: **P. TUAZON COR. C. BENITEZ, NEW MANILA, QUEZON CITY**

PRICE RANGE: **2-BR UNITS START AT P5.8M TO P6.5M, 3-BR UNITS START AT P8.4M TO P9.4M**

CONTACT DETAILS: **ROCKWELL PRIMARIES**

URL: **WWW.PRIMARIES.COM.PH**

SHANG PROPERTIES

THE RISE

Get spoiled for choices at The Rise Makati, which is a 63-story residential development with 2,822 units. The development is a luxurious offering in the most cosmopolitan part of the city. With world-class amenities divided into three areas—The Hangout, The Nest, and The Workshop—your dream of living the cosmopolitan lifestyle is just within reach.

TYPE: **HIGH-RISE CONDO**

LOCATION: **MALUGAY ST., MAKATI CITY**

PRICE RANGE: **PRICES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

CONTACT DETAILS: **SHANG**

PROPERTIES, INC.; TEL. (02) 843-7473

URL: **WWW.SHANGPROPERTIES.COM**

AMENITIES OVERLOAD

It's so easy to get overwhelmed with the many amenities that each developer offers. Here are a few tips to help you choose what's best for your lifestyle.

1. FOR FAMILIES.

Families with children should pick a place where their kids can explore and indulge in their hobbies, be it in sports or the arts. Look for developments that have sports-related amenities like basketball courts or swimming pools, or those with a playground or an arts/crafts room.

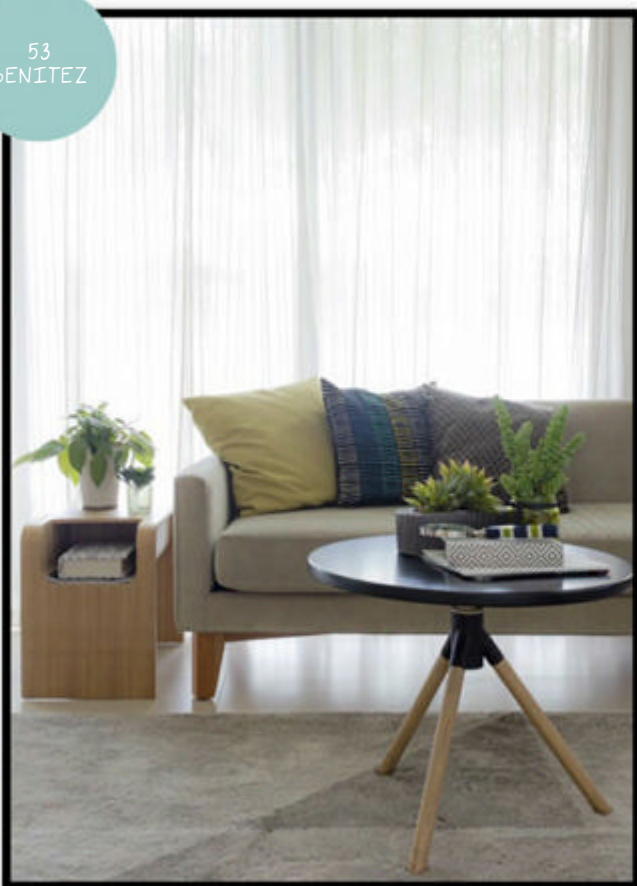
2. FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.

With your busy and active lifestyle, having a gym or a spa in your building will allow you to unwind after a hectic day at work. A jogging lane or a pool is also a convenient way to stay in healthy shape. Having a WiFi-enabled common area where you can hang out with your guests is also a good draw.

3. FOR NEO-NESTERS AND EMPTY-NESTERS.

If you're a retiree, look for a place that offers areas for socialization, like spacious lawns, where you can enjoy leisurely strolls. Having a pocket garden or a generously sized balcony will also let you indulge your green thumb.

53
BENITEZ



ASK IT (p. 8)

MAKE ROOM & MORE

Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio
Global City, Taguig City
Tel. (02) 401-4853

BATHROOM NEWS (p. 12)

AC+632

2/L Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center,
Makati City
Tel. (02) 758-2564

BODY FOOD ALL-NATURAL

Mobile 0917-882-1223

KULTURA FILIPINO

3/L, SM Aura Premier, Bonifacio
Global City, Taguig City
Tel. (02) 808-5421

URL: www.kulturaflipino.com

ZEN ZEST

URL: [www.facebook.com/
ZenZestAsia](http://www.facebook.com/ZenZestAsia)

SHOPPING (pp. 14-18)

CRATE & BARREL

4/L Mega Fashion Hall,
SM Megamall,
Mandaluyong City
URL: [www.facebook.com/
CrateandBarrelPhilippines](http://www.facebook.com/CrateandBarrelPhilippines)

DIMENSIONE

9th St., Bonifacio High Street,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Tel. (02) 856-6756

HOME MATTERS

222 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San
Juan City

Tel. (02) 234-0784

Mobile 0917-621-7945

URL: www.homematters.ph

KISH

233 N. Garcia St., Makati City

Tel. (02) 896-8366

URL: www.kish.ph

MÖBLER

3/L Eastman Bldg., 4977 Enrique St.,

Palanan, Makati City

Tel. (02) 833-5590

URL: www.mobler.com.ph

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URL: www.ourhome.ph

SHOP OF THE MONTH

(pp. 20-21)

TET AND MAGGIE

Tel. (02) 754-4125

Mobile 0917-587-6357 (Tet);

0917-792-9020 (Maggie)

Instagram: @tetandmaggie

GET INSPIRED: DÉCOR IDEAS:

ROOM FOR STYLE (pp. 24-26)

A11

2680 FB Harrison Compound,

Pasay City

Tel. (02) 832-9972

AC+632

(See Bathroom News)

DIMENSIONE

(See Shopping)

H&M HOME

G/L SM Makati, Ayala Center,

Makati City

URL: www.hm.com/ph

KULTURA FILIPINO

(See Bathroom News)

GET INSPIRED: DÉCOR IDEAS:

WALL FINISHES (pp. 28-33)

A11

(See Décor Ideas: Room for Style)

DIMENSIONE

(See Shopping)

KISH

(See Shopping)

MARGO POTS AND FLOWERS

Fiesta Market! Market! Bonifacio

Global City, Taguig City

MÖBLER

(See Shopping)

SPACE ENCOUNTERS

Unit B Mezzanine, Padilla Bldg.,

F. Ortigas Jr., Ortigas Center,

Mandaluyong City

Tel. (02) 910-8031

URL: www.spaceencounters.net

STUDIO ELEVEN

MG Bldg. 150 Amorsolo St., Makati City

Tel. (02) 894-243

Email sales@studio11fabrics.com

TINA S. BERIN FLOWERS SHOP

Fiesta Market! Market! Bonifacio

Global City, Taguig City

GET INSPIRED: ORGANIZE IT:

LOO, WE HAVE A GUEST! (pp.

34-35)

A11

(See Décor Ideas: Room for Style)

AC+632

(See Bathroom News)

DIMENSIONE

(See Shopping)

H&M HOME

(See Décor Ideas: Room for Style)

GET THE LOOK OF A TASTEFUL

BOHO APARTMENT (p. 45)

A11

(See Décor Ideas: Room for Style)

CHRYSARA NEST

776 Col. Buenaventura St., Addition

Hills, Mandaluyong City

Tel. (02) 724-0172

URL: www.chrysaranest.com

DECOLIVING

URL: www.decolivingmanila.com

DEXTERTON

(See Get the Look of a Flea-Market

Style Home)

KISH

(See Shopping)

KULTURA FILIPINO

(See Bathroom News)

L'INDOCHINE

4/L Mega Fashion Hall, SM

Megamall, Mandaluyong City

URL: [www.facebook.com/
ShopLindochine](http://www.facebook.com/ShopLindochine)

MANDAUE FOAM

(See Shopping)

ROBLES HERITAGE

MC Home Depot, Ortigas Center,

Pasig City

URL: www.roblesheritage.com

SM HOME

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GET THE LOOK OF AN FLEA-

MARKET STYLE HOME (p. 53)

DIMENSIONE

(See Shopping)

DEXTERTON

157 Sgt. E. Rivera Street, Quezon City

Tel. (02) 362-1111

MANDAUE FOAM

(See Shopping)

OUR HOME

LG/L SM Megamall Bldg. A,

Mandaluyong City

(See Shopping)

VITO SELMA

URL: www.vitoselma.com

GET THE LOOK OF AN UPDATED

ANCESTRAL HOME (p. 63)

FACTORY SALES

7 Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City

Tel. (02) 470-0656

HERENCIA ANTIQUES

Paselo de Secundario, Alabang

Town Center, Muntinlupa City,

Tel. (02) 842-1465

ID FURNITURE

2100 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

Tel. (02) 519-8236

KABISAYAAN ANTIQUES

Antiques Village, Tiendesitas, Pasig City

Mobile 0920-622-4250

KULTURA FILIPINO

(See Bathroom News)

L'INDOCHINE

3/L SM Aura Premier, Bonifacio

Global City, Taguig City

Tel. (02) 808-5420

MORE THAN A CHAIR

House # 2, Wilson Compound,

Park Ave., Pasay City

Tel. (02) 831-0250

URL: www.morethanachair.com

NOBLE DREAM HOUSE

G/L LRI Design Plaza, 210 N. Garcia

St., Makati City

Tel. (02) 871-3050

STUDIO 10.10

2/L LRI Design Plaza, 210 N. Garcia

St., Makati City

Tel. (02) 822-6976

GET THE LOOK OF A PLAYFUL,

MODERN (p. 71)

BO CONCEPT

B2 Bonifacio High Street, Bonifacio

Global City, Taguig

Tel. (02) 856-2748

URL: www.boconcept.com

CRATE & BARREL

(See Shopping)

DIMENSIONE

(See Shopping)

MANDAUE FOAM

(See Shopping)

STUDIO ELEVEN

(See Décor Ideas: Wall Finishes)

GET THE LOOK OF AN EXOTIC,

COLORFUL HOME (p. 79)

ALTO DESIGN

LRI Design Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St.,

Makati City

Tel. (02) 403-0087

CRATE & BARREL

(See Shopping)

DIMENSIONE

(See Shopping)

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1 Julia Vargas Ave. cor. Meralco

Ave., Pasig City

Tel. (02) 683-0823

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RUSTANS DEPARTMENT STORE

Ayala Center, Makati City

URL: www.rustans.com.ph

RL NOTEBOOK (pp. 81-87)

AC +632

(See Bathroom News)

ALL HOME

Levi Mariano Ave., Brgy. Ususan,

Taguig City

URL: www.allhome.com.ph

CRATE AND BARREL

(See Shopping)

MAKE ROOM & MORE

(See Ask It)

SM HOME

(See Get the Look of a Tasteful Boho

Apartment)

WILCON DEPOT

90 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong

Norte Murphy, Libis, Quezon City

Tel. (02) 634-8387.

REAL MAKEOVER (pp. 88-91)

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT

STORE

(See Get the Look of an Exotic,

Colorful Home)

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nationwide

WILKONSTRUCT

General Contractor

Apartelle 21 Starmall, Edsa cor.

Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City

Tel. (02) 654-5097

URL: <http://www.wdcmanila.com>

SIBU DESIGN

16 Bonifacio Drive, Pasong Tamo,

Quezon City

Tel. (02) 932-7651

URL: www.sibu.at

PROFESSIONALS

CRAFT MNL

Creative Community

URL: www.craftmnl.com

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Photographer

Email hello@jelitodeleon.com

KRISTINE NERI-MAGTURO

Principal Interior Designer

Abode & Co., Urban Abode

Email kristineneri@gmail.com

MIGUEL NACIANCENO

Photographer

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Favorite area in the house
 “Nook outside the dining room. This is where my husband and I have quiet conversations over coffee or glasses of wine.”



Favorite home accessory
 “Vintage screen. This was a family heirloom from my mom’s side that I had restored. It technically does not follow the modern aesthetic of our house, but I love how it brings a touch of personal history into our home.” Find similar at Justin’s Treasures, 17 Katipunan Ave. Ext., White Plains, Quezon City

Favorite object on the night table “A pair of Conrad Tokyo Teddy Bears. My husband and I got these on our first trip to Japan in 2010. We playfully attached them to the matching lamps on our night tables. They’re a nice reminder of the first trip we took, just the two of us—after getting married.”



VANESSA MAYUGA SANTOS

This mom and curator of online lifestyle shop Seek the Uniq shares what’s in her home



Favorite pick-me-up treat
 “Massages—either at home or in a spa. It is the best way for me to relax and decompress.”



Favorite travel destination
 “Pangalusian Island, El Nido. This is where we went on our first trip as a family without a nanny. It was such a great bonding experience for the four of us, in the midst of an awe-inspiring paradise. We will definitely go back again soon.”

1 My Favorite Things at Home



Favorite home appliance “KitchenAid mixer. I’m not very adept in the kitchen, but I do enjoy baking with my five-year-old daughter Stella.” Available at Rustan’s Department Store



Favorite recycling trick “Gift ribbons. I’ve always found it such a waste to throw away beautiful things. We keep ribbons and use them with kraft paper to wrap new presents.”

Favorite design sources
 “Bungalow 300 store and Instagram account. I am generally not a ‘design’ person. Our home basically evolves and adjusts as our family grows. But I love vintage pieces that have been restored, and Bungalow 300 has many inspiring ideas.” Bungalow 300, No. 7 Buencamino St., Alabang, Muntinlupa City; @bungalow300 on Instagram

Favorite home scent
 “Diptyque Baies Candle. We normally use this candle whenever we have visitors over. I just love the scent and how it lingers around the house without being overpowering.” Baies Candle, Diptyque, G/L Bonifacio Central Square, Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City



Favorite color
 “Neutrals. They’re soothing to the eye and can easily be tweaked using accessories and statement pieces.” Try Brilliant White, Gray Ashes, and Pebble Walk, all from Nippon Paint



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